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36-pct. drop in landfill equipment rental deal. PAGE 3
Inos supports construction of 500-room hotels. PAGE 6

Babauta out by Monday

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

» Inos accepts CHCC board decision on CEO

It's official. Juan N. Babauta will be out as CEO of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. come Monday after Gov. Eloy S. Inos concurred yesterday with the corporation board's recommendation to terminate Babauta's contract.

Babauta

Babauta's employment contract was set to expire on July 9. The board, which has been vocal in its dissatisfaction with his performance, voted for his contract's non-renewal. That later turned into immediate termination, effective seven days after the governor's acceptance.

The governor's much-awaited decision came down yesterday afternoon

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Budget now seen at $123M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

From the original projection of $114 million, and later $120 million, the Inos administration's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget has been revised to $123 million as tourism arrivals continue to grow and cost-cutting and revenue-generating bills pile up at the Legislature.

See BUDGET on Page 4

Military honors for WWII remains recovered on Saipan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The remains of a fallen World War II American soldier recovered on Saipan in March, along with those recently recovered in Vietnam and Laos, will be honored at an arrival ceremony in Honolulu, Hawaii Friday morning.

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In this March 21, 2013 photo taken in Achugao, members of the Japanese nonprofit organization Kuentai Group, aided by Japanese government personnel and Saipan residents, recover the remains of a soldier later believed to belong to an American servicemember who perished on Saipan during World War II.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Buckingham faces new lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A retired U.S. Air Force officer who became a government lawyer for the CNMI now claims that former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham fired him to save on cost and in retaliation for advising against the approval of some sole-source contracts.

In a statement on Tuesday, attorney Robert T. Torres said that Buckingham summarily dismissed James W. Taylor as assistant attorney general in 2011 without following proper procedures.

Torres said that, although Taylor had

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➤ Prosecution, defense rest in trial of Michael Jackson. PAGE 8

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you support the proposal for CNMI foreign workers as outlined in the immigration reform bill crafted by the U.S. Senate's "Gang of Eight"?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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The radicalization of Boston Marathon suspect Tamerlan Tsarnaev.
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'Game of Thrones' grows deadlier for the women of HBO's fantasy series. ➤ PAGE 19

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Local

CPA officials confident in agency's strong performance

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The management and the board of directors of the Commonwealth Ports Authority expressed confidence yesterday that the agency will pass with flying colors the performance evaluation being conducted by the Executive Branch on it, describing the agency's operation as stable and in good hands.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and board chair Jose Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune* that the review on the agency is no big surprise as this is normal procedure when a new administration comes in.

"We're not surprised that CPA is being evaluated…but we're confident because the ports authority has gone a long way in terms of improvements. Very evident is our yearly audit on how we're doing with our resources compared in the past. I can say CPA now is pretty much stable in terms of revenue versus expenditure," said Deleon Guerrero.

He cited CPA's continuing compliance with its bond indenture agreements and the agency's improved ratings with Fitch Ratings, among other major achievements.

According to Lifoifoi, CPA's good performance can also be attested by the commendations it has received from its federal partner, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which funds most CPA projects.

"Those are indications of how well and strong this agency is being run," said Deleon Guerrero.

He related that FAA officials just visited the agency this month and indicated how pleased they are about how things are improving at CNMI airports.

Among the projects being funded by the FAA are the rehabilitation of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport runway, the construction of the ARFF training center, renovation of airport restrooms and roofs, and air-conditioning upgrades.

Deleon Guerrero said all these are ongoing and are on track with their completion deadline.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos assumed office on Feb. 20 upon the resignation of former governor Benigno R. Fitial. Since then, the new administration has been reviewing the performance of every department and agencies to gauge the effectiveness of their leadership.

CPA is among the autonomous agencies that are being reviewed and among the items that are under scrutiny are the salaries of executive directors.

Board to meet with governor

Lifoifoi disclosed yesterday that a meeting is now being arranged with the governor to tackle a host of issues about CPA and its operations and the expectations of the new governor.

Inos earlier said that the administration is reviewing the high salaries being given to executive directors of autonomous agencies, hinting at a possible reduction.

This early, Lifoifoi said that the board is amenable to what the governor may ask of it.

Deleon Guerrero is receiving a per annum salary of $90,000, sourced from the agency's own revenue and collections.

"We will discuss this matter with the governor and if he will ask the board to cut the director's salary…the board is amenable to that. As a board, we need to know what's the governor's direction with regards to CPA and we will sit down with him [next week]," Lifoifoi told *Saipan Tribune*.

The executive director works at the pleasure of the board who selects the candidate for the position. This post is exempted from the government's salary cap of $50,000.

Except for the executive director position, other employees of the agency are covered by the salary cap law, Deleon Guerrero said.

"The governor can work with the board and can request them to do that [the salary reduction]…but those actions need to come from the board itself," said Deleon Guerrero, adding that certain salaries for directors are based on negotiations between parties.

CHIROPRACTIC EXPERT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Jonathan Goins responds to a question from a participant during a recent presentation about Chiropractic in the Mariana Islands, which was held April 4 on Tinian. About 60 people have attended the free seminar and presentation on the history, knowledge, and power of Chiropractic in the CNMI. Special thanks are extended to Star Marianas Air and Pacific Family Chiropractic for their generosity and support.

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36-pct. drop in Marpi landfill equipment rental deal

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

What started as a $54,800-a-month no-bid contract for Marpi landfill equipment rental services in September dramatically dropped by 36 percent to $35,000 a month after the Department of Public Works started asking for price quotations this year, documents obtained by *Saipan Tribune* show.

SARS/Success International Corp. got the no-bid contract for the emergency procurement last year.

When DPW started asking for quotations from other contractors, SARS/Success International lowered its price from $54,800 to $48,500.

In the succeeding rounds of price quotation solicitation, SARS/Success International further lowered its price to $35,000.

DPW's current one-month equipment rental service deal with SARS/Success International for the Marpi landfill's temporary operation expires on April 30.

DPW Secretary Martin Sablan, when asked for comment yesterday, said there is no telling whether another equipment rental service with a private contractor will be signed when the existing agreement expires.

"We would know by next week," Sablan said.

DPW entered into equipment rental deals starting last year after PDL, its original long-term contractor for the operation of the Marpi landfill, decided not to renew its contract. For months, DPW was unable to issue a request for proposal for the landfill's operation so it awarded a no-bid emergency contract for at least four months.

Early this year, the government issued an RFP for the operation of the Marpi landfill and five private firms submitted their proposals. This RFP has a far wider scope of work than mere equipment rental, including operations and maintenance of the Marpi landfill.

A review committee from DPW and the Division of Environmental Quality selected the top two—Tang's Corp. and SARS/Success International—and asked for their best and final offer.

The panel later chose Tang's Corp. but the government has so far not issued an intent to award contract.

SARS/Success International filed a procurement protest. Finance's Division of Procurement and Supply is now reviewing the protest.

Lawmakers urge Inos to support AG's opinion on PPA with SDLLC

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

At least five House members led by Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) are urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to "concur and support" Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas' opinion that former governor Benigno R. Fitial "had no authority" to enter into a $190.8-million power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

The lawmakers are set to introduce House Joint Resolution 18-6 at this afternoon's session.

One of the resolution's co-authors, Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan), said yesterday that HJR 18-6 "basically reaffirms the sentiment of the Legislature that what former governor Fitial did was not within his authority to enter into an agreement on behalf of [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.]."

"CUC procurement regulations were not followed…rendering [the] contract moot in my opinion," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune.*

Fitial's signing of the $190.8-million PPA with SDLLC was among the House's bases for impeaching the former governor on 18 charges of corruption, commission of felony, and neglect of duty.

Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, just days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

The former governor, on behalf of CUC, and former attorney general Edward Buckingham, now a fugitive from justice, signed the power deal with SDLLC on Aug. 3, 2012. That power purchase deal became known to lawmakers and most of the CNMI only after a copy was leaked to the media weeks later, drawing uproar from the community and government officials. A taxpayers' lawsuit was also filed against Fitial, Buckingham, CUC, and the Delaware-based SDLLC.

In March, Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman ruled that the court lacks the power to stop SDLLC's actions.

Two men arrested for separate beating, slicing self with knife

A man was arrested on Tuesday for allegedly beating up a female co-worker at their worksite, while another man was arrested on Monday for slicing his own forearm with a knife.

Antonio Quizon, 57, and Erwin P. Santos Jr., 23, were taken to Superior Court yesterday for bail hearings. Bail was set at $5,000 cash each for Quizon and Santos.

Quizon was arrested for assault and battery and disturbing the peace. Santos was arrested for assault and disturbing the peace.

Police detective J.B. Cepeda stated in his report that Quizon pushed and repeatedly punched his female co-worker in the kitchen of Bobbies Cadillac in western Garapan last Feb. 2.

The alleged victim told police she was crying for help during the assault but her co-workers were too scared of Quizon and did not come to her aid.

The alleged victim went to the Commonwealth Health Center on Feb. 8 as she could still feel pain in her lower back. She told police that a doctor found blood in her urine and that she is still awaiting the results of her ultrasound.

The alleged victim and another female co-worker had been talking in the kitchen when Quizon overheard them and confronted the alleged victim.

During their argument, Quizon allegedly pushed her, causing her head to hit the pizza mixer machine. He then allegedly repeatedly punched her in the lower back.

After the assault, Quizon allegedly warned a witness not to talk or else she would become involved.

The alleged victim called their manager and informed him of the incident. Quizon was terminated the following day.

In Santos' case, police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that a police officer responded to a residence in Chalan Kanoa on Monday at 9:53pm after receiving a call about a disturbance.

Upon arriving, the officer saw bloodstains on the walls, floor, and sink of the kitchen. The house's owner told the officer that the blood came from Santos, who had sliced his own arm with a knife.

While the officer was interviewing the home owner, he received a call that Santos was at the Moonlight Poker in Chalan Kanoa and was asking for police and medical assistance. Medics brought Santos to CHC.

The home owner said he was at home with his son and his son's girlfriend when Santos, who appeared drunk and angry, arrived and became angry about the kitchen being messy. He allegedly threatened to kill his father in front of his girlfriend.

Santos then grabbed a knife and sliced his left forearm. He waved the knife and arms around, causing his blood to splatter around.

When Santos left, the house owner called police. Police arrested Santos at CHC that same night. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Car-burning suspect hashing out plea deal

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Aziz Peter Mettao, an ex-disc jockey who is charged in federal court for allegedly burning a car owned by Power 99 Studio, is discussing with the U.S. government about signing a plea agreement.

Mettao, through court-appointed counsel F. Matthew Smith, and assistant U.S. attorney Rami S. Badawy, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday about the plea agreement.

Smith and Badawy asked the court to postpone Mettao's competency hearing, currently scheduled for May 8, 2013, for at least 30 days.

The lawyers disclosed that they are in the process of finalizing the plea agreement that, if accepted, would render a competency hearing moot.

The lawyers said if they are unable to reach a plea agreement or if the court refuses to accept the plea deal, both parties will need more time to prepare for the hearing.

Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona agreed to postpone the hearing from May 8 to June 19, 2013.

Last October, Manglona granted the defense counsel's motion to order a psychiatric or psychological exam on Mettao to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

Mettao, 27, was reportedly admitted to the Federal Detention Center in Washington on Dec. 19, 2012, for a competency evaluation.

Smith disclosed that prior to his arrest, Mettao was working with the Veterans Affairs Office in Guam to get mental and medical attention.

According to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Mettao used beer bottles that he filled with flammable liquid to burn Power 99's silver Hyundai Tucson in western Garapan in the early morning of Sept. 10, 2012.

Mettao was arrested on Oct. 19, 2012.

BUCKINGHAM

From Page 1

advised Buckingham against approving some sole-source contracts, the former AG would approve them anyway.

He said that Buckingham terminated Taylor on April 13, 2011, and replaced him with six or more junior level attorneys as a means to cut cost.

"This is the legacy of Buckingham: punishing people who do their job and do it well for the Commonwealth, and advancing special interests. That is wrong," Torres said.

The Superior Court has declared Buckingham a fugitive from justice. He is currently facing several criminal charges filed by the Office of the Public Auditor in Superior Court.

Torres is counsel for Taylor, who is suing Buckingham and the Office of the Attorney General and 10 unnamed co-defendants in federal court for age discrimination.

Taylor filed claims for breach of contract, unlawful constructive termination in violation of public policy, breach of covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and tortious interference with contract.

Taylor wants a jury trial and is demanding unspecified damages, back pay, court costs, interests, and attorney's fees.

Taylor is an attorney licensed in the states of Washington, California, the District of Columbia, and the CNMI. He is a retired USAF lieutenant colonel with 26 years of military service.

According to the complaint filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Tuesday, the OAG recruited the then 63-year-old Taylor in 2010 to serve as an assistant attorney general under a two-year contract. The contract started on Aug. 29, 2010, and was scheduled to end on Aug. 29, 2012.

Torres said that, on April 13, 2011, Buckingham summoned Taylor to the law library of the OAG and told him that he should no longer work for the CNMI. Buckingham also allegedly threatened to terminate Taylor immediately unless he resigns.

The meeting was witnessed by OAG administrative officer Tina Sakisat, Torres said.

He said Buckingham then turned over two of three pieces of paper that had been placed on a table in front of Taylor. One was a resignation letter, while the second was a letter from Buckingham informing him that he would be repatriated pursuant to his employment contract.

Torres said that Buckingham did not display or disclose the contents of the third document.

Torres said that Taylor signed the resignation letter in order to avoid summary and immediate termination.

Following Taylor's departure, Buckingham hired at least six attorneys, all of whom were under the age of 40. Torres said that Buckingham hired these lawyers at a salary less than the amount being paid Taylor.

Taylor then filed charges against the CNMI with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for the acts of discrimination.

EEOC issued a notice of right to sue dated Jan. 14, 2013.

Torres noted that the time it terminated Taylor's contract, the government was facing significant financial constraints that required the OAG to curtail expenses.

To address these realities, Torres said, Buckingham proposed that if he could hire six fledgling attorneys at a cost of about $1.5 million, and if the OAG could service the legal requirements of the various autonomous agencies, he could save the government $1.5 million.

At the time, Buckingham claimed that the government was spending about $3 million per year on outside legal fees for autonomous agencies.

Torres said that Buckingham focused on hiring recent law school graduates and to pay them, "he embarked upon a strategy to eliminate senior attorneys who were paid at a higher rate."

Torres pointed out that discharging older employees in a cost reduction effort violates the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967.

Torres said the OAG and the CNMI are liable under the ADEA for the consequences of these actions.

Torres said that Taylor's constructive termination was in retaliation for his opposition to the management of the OAG and its illegal approval of sole-source contracts.

"Taylor's constructive termination was in retaliation for his public criticism of Buckingham and the legality of the policies and procedures that Buckingham was bent on implementing, including those illegal sole-source contracts," he said.

MILITARY

From Page 1

"The remains receiving full military honors represent losses associated with World War II and the Vietnam War from recent JPAC recovery activities in Saipan, Vietnam, and Laos," said the U.S. Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, or JPAC.

JPAC said yesterday the arrival ceremony at 9m in Hangar 19 honors "fallen U.S. servicemembers whose identities remain unknown."

The remains found on Saipan were believed to belong to William T. Carneal, from Paducah, Kentucky, who disappeared during World War II. He was believed to have enlisted in October 1941, reported missing in action in 1944, and declared dead in 1945.

A non-profit Japanese recovery organization called Kuentai Group arrived on Saipan in March to retrieve the remains of Japanese soldiers and civilians who perished during the war. In the process, they also discovered the remains believed to be that of an American soldier, along with dog tags, a high school ring and American coins. JPAC was notified and it sent a team to Saipan.

JPAC, however, has not officially declared the remains to be Carneal's.

Jamie Dobson, JPAC's chief of media operations, told *Saipan Tribune* in an email interview that there has not been an identification made on the remains received by JPAC personnel on Saipan.

"We cannot discuss specifics on open and active cases. However, generally, when remains and evidence are entered into JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory, they undergo a strict forensic analysis process. We follow a strict protocol to ensure the highest standards are maintained for all of our identifications," Dobson said.

JPAC said an honor detail composed of joint military members will escort three flag-draped transfer cases from a U.S. military plane to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory for analyses on Friday.

Once the transfer cases arrive at JPAC's laboratory, the forensic process of identifying the individuals will begin.

If and when identifications are established, the names will be announced following the next-of-kin notification.

JPAC falls directly under the U.S. Pacific Command and employs more than 500 joint military and civilian personnel. It continues its search for the fullest possible accounting of Americans still unaccounted for from past conflicts.

Dobson said JPAC feels "extremely fortunate and extremely grateful" for the recovery of the remains on Saipan.

"When the Japanese team determined that the remains might be those of a U.S. service member, JPAC was contacted directly and support throughout the process was tremendous—particularly from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Historical Preservation Office and the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs," Dobson told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dobson said there are approximately 1,400 service members unaccounted for from World War II in the "Marianas Islands" region and more than 30 are believed to be on Saipan.

The Battle of Saipan, a battle of the Pacific campaign of World War II, was fought from June 15 to July 9, 1944.

Family notifications are handled by the appropriate service casualty office; for example, if the remains are those of a U.S. Army soldier, the U.S. Army Casualty Assistance Office will handle the notification.

"At this point, JPAC will review the information gathered, but it is too early to determine whether an investigation mission will follow. JPAC received remains in October 2011 from the island of Saipan, however there has not been a JPAC investigation or recovery operation on the island," Dobson said.

BUDGET

From Page 1

The latest of such proposals include Rep. Christopher D. Leon Guerrero's (Cov-Saipan) bill eliminating bonus, within-grade and merit increases for government employees, which was pre-filed yesterday.

Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, in an interview after a meeting with the House leadership yesterday afternoon, said the revised projected revenue of $123 million is a result of tighter enforcement and tourists' "renewed interest in the CNMI."

He acknowledged that the proposed spending package remains below the annual budget in past years but said the administration is "optimistic" that the tourism-based economy will continue to improve.

The CNMI budget breached the $200 million mark in 1996 before peaking at $247 million the following year. Since then, it has been almost downhill due to the slowdown in tourism and the shutdown of garment manufacturing four years ago.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos has yet to submit his fiscal year 2014 spending plan to the Legislature. The total amount may still change between today and when he actually submits the budget.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan separately said that the current $123 million projection is "due to a combination of both anticipated revenues from pending bills and increased tourism activity.

"Such anticipated gains are driven by increased collections from business gross revenue taxes and hotel occupancy taxes," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that the governor is hoping to wrap up the budget and submit it on or before the end of this week.

The governor has until May 1 to submit the budget, which also includes consolidation of government agencies and functions and other cost-cutting measures.

Personnel contracts

Hofschneider and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas met yesterday afternoon with the House leadership to endorse the passage of a Senate bill amending Public Law 17-80 that "affected" the employment process for some 50 government personnel holding specialized skills such as biologists, engineers, and attorneys.

Based on the list Hofschneider showed lawmakers yesterday, there are other affected employees not necessarily in specialized skills but do not fall under excepted service and civil service categories, such as "executive secretary, administrative officer, and administrative assistant."

Hofschneider said the impacts included difficulty of contract renewals and processing of salaries.

He also said there are safeguards in place to avoid political hiring, including PL 17-80 itself, and department heads need to certify first that these personnel have specialized skills.

Senators passed last week floor leader Ray Yumul's Senate Bill 18-18, Senate Substitute 1, amending PL 17-80, which moved the Office of Personnel Management back to the Civil Service Commission.

The bill that became PL 17-80 was introduced by Hofschneider when he was still Senate vice president last year.

In an interview after the meeting with the House leadership yesterday, Hofschneider said the employment contracts fell through the cracks as a result of PL 17-80 and the administration, with the help of lawmakers, is trying to address that in the form of Yumul's SB 18-18.

The House is holding a session this afternoon, but there is no telling whether it will pass SB 18-18.

The bill says that, while past abuses of employment under excepted service is curtailed with PL 17-80's passage, interpretation of this law's mechanics "posed great difficulty in processing some employment contracts after PL 17-80 took effect."

BABAUTA

From Page 1

when Inos terminated Babauta's contract effective Monday, April 29. He instructed Babauta to meet with interim CEO Esther Muña for a smooth and orderly transition of the CEO's functions.

Inos received on April 22 the corporation board resolution pertaining to the termination of Babauta's contract.

According to Inos, the law requires him to accept the board's recommendation regarding the removal of the CEO.

"This letter serves to effectuate the recommendation. As I received the board's resolution on April 22, your employment is terminated effective April 29, 2013. So as to avoid any interruption in delivery of healthcare services to the residents of the CNMI, I ask that you meet with [Muña] to ensure there's a smooth and orderly transition," stated the governor's letter to Babauta yesterday afternoon.

Babauta refused to comment when contacted yesterday, saying he has yet to receive the governor's letter.

CHCC board chair Joaquin Torres admitted to having "mixed emotions" upon learning of the governor's decision. He said he is both sad and disappointed that Babauta, of whom he had such high hopes, turned out to be otherwise.

However, he said the corporation can now heave a sigh of relief because it just closed a sad chapter and can now move forward under a new leadership.

The board is scheduled to meet today with Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider on host of issues, including the recruitment of a new CEO, the hospital's plan of correction for the concerns cited by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, the corporation's funding needs for fiscal year 2014, and the technical assistance of the Office of Insular Affairs, among others.

Torres said the board will also recommend to Inos that Muña be paid $96,000 per annum as interim CEO—the same salary that Babauta was getting.

Muña is the corporation's COO and chief financial officer and currently receives $85,000.

Torres said the board is confident that Muna can do a better job than her predecessor.

Saipan Tribune learned that Muña has been with the public hospital for 20 years now in various capacities.

Express Financial opens doors as newest consumer finance firm

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID
The six-member team of Express Financial led by branch manager James B. Matsumoto, right.

Dealing with unexpected expenses? Trying to cope with financial needs? Express Financial, a recently opened consumer finance company, is fast becoming the loan provider of choice for more and more people in the CNMI.

Express Financial specializes in consumer loans while also offering auto loans and retail financing on a referral basis from corporate partners ranging from computer outlets and electronics stores to air-condition vendors to dental clinics.

The company is owned by Car Financial Services, a subsidiary of the publicly owned specialty finance company and marketer Atlanticus Holdings Corp. out of Atlanta, Georgia. It has a six-member staff, all of whom are highly experienced in consumer lending, having worked previously under Wells Fargo Financial.

CLARISSA V. DAVID
Express Financial is located at the former Wells Fargo Financial next to Payless Shoe Source in San Jose, Saipan.

Business at Express Financial has been very good, as expected, since opening last February.

"We're really excited to be back in business through Express Financial. With the soft opening over a couple of months ago, we can tell that we were missed. Our old and new customers are coming in already at higher than expected level without much advertising," says branch manager James B. Matsumoto.

According to Matsumoto, Express Financial provides a "different perspective" as far as other consumer financing institutions on island is concerned.

"We're coming at a time when we have an advantage of knowing the current economic situation," he said. "We've seen who has adjusted and who hasn't. We have a distinct advantage of being able to see the market for the way it is."

What sets apart Express Financial from other consumer finance companies is the swift and convenient process that applicants have to go through to get loans at a minimum of $500, as collateral for loans with Express Financial.

Additionally, the company will also begin selling next month credit life and credit disability. "These are insurance products that will give customers peace of mind should the unthinkable happen," explained Matsumoto. "They will be covered and they protect their credit history, their assets. We can just pay off the loan with the insurance."

Express Financial, Matsumoto revealed, is also looking at the possibility of becoming an auto insurance broker and getting into real estate so they can do larger consolidation loans at lower rates.

To apply for consumer loans or for more information, visit Express Financial at the former Wells Fargo Financial building next to Payless Shoe Source in San Jose, Saipan. They are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm. You may also call 235-6032 or fax 235-6040.

said Matsumoto.

He said potential clients can submit their information to any Express Financial personnel and they will easily get the decision in an hour, sometimes less, so that most loans are closed in a day or two. "We do small loans quickly and efficiently, with friendly service, and at affordable monthly payments," he added.

Applying for a loan also doesn't mean having to leave the comforts of one's own home or clocking out early from work, Matsumoto said.

"I think what our customers like the most is they're able to call in and apply for a loan over the phone," he said, adding that loan applicants can also fax in their information.

When it comes to payment structure, Express Financial works well within the budget of its clients. "We could stretch a term to make it affordable. Five years is usually our limit on the small and auto loans," said Matsumoto.

Two months in the business and the company already has plans to offer new products. Those who do not have any credit history may just be in luck, said Matsumoto, as they await the approval of the Department of Finance to allow taxpayers to use their tax rebates or refunds

ADVERTISING Feature

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Inos supports construction of 500-room hotels

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos supports a provision in a new Saipan casino gaming bill that requires investors to build 500-room hotels, primarily because the islands now lack hotel rooms to accommodate the surging number of tourists coming in.

Inos

The governor said he has been communicating with the owners of hotels that are currently offline but he said these owners "have their own issues so we cannot really push too hard."

Some hotels that are currently closed for renovations, change of ownership, and others reasons include The Palms Resort, Coral Ocean Point, and Riviera Hotel.

"The casino bill that I saw requires construction of a new 500-room hotel so if we can't get existing hotels, then we're going to push for something like that," he said.

House floor leader Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) and at least eight other lawmakers introduced the casino bill to help generate additional revenue to prolong the NMI Retirement Fund's lifespan.

Up to 80 percent of casino license fees, gaming taxes, other taxes, fees, and payments associated with Saipan casino operations will go toward the pension agency.

The Fund is expected to expire in March 2014 unless it receives immediate infusion of $60 million to $70 million annually, an amount that pro-casino lawmakers believe could be generated by passing the Saipan casino bill.

With less than a year before March 2014, the Saipan casino bill has yet to be acted on by the House.

"We need rooms, number one. We don't need casinos, we need rooms. But if casino is the one that's going to kick the rooms up, let's have casino and the rooms," Inos said.

Casino investors can opt to secure a 40-year "exclusive license" for $2 million a year or a total of $80 million, half of which is payable in advance within 90 days of the license's approval.

The "non-exclusive casino license" is limited to three casinos in three separate locations on Saipan.

This is for $3 million a year for 10 years or a total of $30 million, half of which is also payable within 90 days of the license's approval.

ADMISSIONS CEREMONY NMI JUDICIARY

From left, attorneys Matthew H. Meyer, Benjamin K. Petersburg, and Nadeah I. Vali are sworn in during an admissions ceremony at the CNMI Supreme Court on April 19, 2013. Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, who administered the oath, exhorted the three to "utilize the words of the oath as a beacon in your practice in this jurisdiction." Alicia G. Limtiaco, U.S. Attorney for Guam and the NMI, gave the keynote address.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday Tita! Enjoy your special day. We love and miss you! Greetings come from Capu and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-13-019

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ENGINE LUBE OILS FOR POWER GENERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the supply and delivery of engine lubricating oils for CUC Power Generation facilities on Saipan and Rota for the period starting August 01, 2013 through August 30, 2017.

The RFP package may be obtained upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one set from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on **May 7, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-13-019, Supply & Delivery Of Engine Lube Oils for Power Generation"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 23, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

All Offerors are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The Proposal Price shall remain the same throughout the term of the contract except for the variation in the MOPS and government taxes, duties and fees.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

All questions or request for clarification must be submitted in writing no later than **May 10, 2013 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Wallon Young, CUC Deputy Director for Power via email wallon59@yahoo.com and Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer via email charles_warren@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ALAN W. FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director

MHS' Cuerdo is Gates Millennium Scholar for 2013

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School senior Marjorie Ann Cuerdo joins a growing list of CNMI students who have been selected to receive the prestigious Gates Millennium Scholarship this school year.

Cuerdo, the daughter of Zenaida and Marco Antonio Cuerdo and the second GMS recipient from the Commonwealth this year, feels relief at being awarded the scholarship.

"When I received notification of the scholarship, I was relieved! I'm very grateful to have been chosen among the many that applied this year. Despite my college acceptances, I know that pursuing college would be a large financial burden for my family. With Gates, I feel secure about my future plans through their offered professional leadership development conferences and mentoring," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Cuerdo

As a Gates Millennium Scholar, Cuerdo can attend any U.S. located and accredited college or university of her choice. This is a renewable scholarship.

Cuerdo will major in electrical and computer engineering. She also plans to take up Hindi-Urdu and aerospace studies as minors. These courses, she said, will aid her greatly as she plans to join the U.S. Air Force.

She's narrowing her college choices to Stanford University in California, University of Virginia, University of Rochester in New York, and University of Miami in Florida.

"I want to encourage every high school student to start planning for the future early. There are many scholarship opportunities out there apart from Gates. Almost every individual college offers its own form of scholarship on top of financial aid. My advice would just be to keep striving for the best and what makes you happy. Programs like GMS prove that you have opportunities to achieve anything with genuine motivation and hard work, no matter who you are and where you come from," she added.

According to Joo Young Lee, director of the Gates Millennium Scholars Program for Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, more than 54,000 students applied for the scholarship this year, making it the largest and most competitive group of candidates in the program's history.

ESFDB student wins Law Day essay contest

A seventh grade student at Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota has won the 3rd Annual Law Day Essay Contest for junior high school students.

Angelica Lucero, the daughter of Arlo and Mary Rose Lucero, was presented with the Associate Justice Award for her winning piece, in addition to $75, a CNMI Judiciary History book, and certificate of recognition.

"I've always been interested in the law," Lucero said. "I'm now considering a career in law instead of science. My participation in the Jr. High Mock Trial and the Law Day Essay Contest has been very eye-opening."

Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja student Angelica Lucero.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The essay contest was part of the 2013 National Law Day celebration and was hosted by the Commonwealth Judiciary in conjunction with the NMI Judicial Council, the Northern Marianas Judiciary Historical Society, the CNMI Bar Association, and the CNMI Public School System.

Students were invited to write an essay on this year's theme: "Realizing the Dream: Equality for All."

"Any kind of interest in the legal profession at a young age is good, it's an important thing," said ESFDB principal Carmen H. Atalig. "We certainly want the best and brightest to be a part of our judicial system."

"I hope some of our students such as Angelica might be inspired to pursue a legal career. It gives them an opportunity to find out how decisions made in the Constitution have a way of affecting their lives," added ESFDB board president Edward Maratita Jr.

Law Day 2013 has provided an opportunity for students to explore the movement for civil and human rights in the United States and the impact it has had in promoting the ideal of "equality under the law" in the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(Edward Maratita Jr.)***

Hyatt donates $30K to make kids' wishes come true

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa, third from right, leads other hotel executives in presenting a $30,000 check donation to Make-A-Wish executive director Victor P. Camacho and foundation board member Angela Yamashita-Santos yesterday.

Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday handed over a generous $30,000 donation to the Make A Wish Foundation of Guam/CNMI.

Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa led other hotel executives during the check presentation to Make-A-Wish executive director Victor P. Camacho and foundation board member Angela Yamashita-Santos.

The donation comes from the proceeds of the 2011 and 2012 Annual Club at the Hyatt Golf Classic organized by the international hotel brand name.

Nishikawa and other Hyatt directors said Wednesday that their support for the Make-A-Wish Foundation started long before it became an official part of their corporate responsibility.

In addition to financial assistance, Hyatt Regency Saipan also hosts an annual dinner for Make-A-Wish beneficiaries on island. The event is held every Dec. 1 when the hotel launches its holiday festivities.

Make-A-Wish's Camacho, for his part, presented Nishikawa with a glass plaque similar to the ones presented to donors during an appreciation reception held in Guam last February.

Camacho said that as a nonprofit organization, Make-A-Wish Foundation relies solely on donations from community members and business partners in Guam and the CNMI. He noted that Hyatt's annual contribution is "a huge chunk" of their budget.

"The plaque is just our way of telling our donors how important they are to us in our operations and how we need their continuous support because without it, we can't exist and we can't survive. So we want to keep those relationships strong," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho applauded Hyatt Regency Saipan for going "above and beyond" their corporate responsibility to help Make-A-Wish Foundation achieve its mission to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions.

Yesterday's check donation, Camacho said, can take care of at least five wishes. He revealed that nine children in Guam are currently waiting for the school year to end so they can have their travel wishes come true this summer.

In 2012, Make-A-Wish Foundation granted the four wishes of children in the Northern Marianas, including that of Dora Grace Ada Camacho, the young girl who became paralyzed.

Camacho encourages the community to get in touch with Make-A-Wish Foundation if they know of any child up to 18 years of age who might qualify for their program.

"The best thing to do is contact us and let us know," he said. "It's our hope that every eligible kid's wish is granted."

For information, call Make-A-Wish Foundation's CNMI number at (670) 483-WISH (9474) or (671) 649-WISH (9474).

CPA revokes grazing permit for 7-hectare land on Rota

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A seven-hectare land owned by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the island of Rota is up for lease after executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero revoked the grazing permit granted to a rancher due to mounting unpaid obligations with the agency.

» Former mayor appeals decision; board finds the place abandoned

Deleon Guerrero terminated on Jan. 16 this year Dolores A. Cabrera's short-term non-commercial permit to use the seven-hectare property in Sinapalo, Rota, after she reportedly failed to pay the $300 annual fee since 2007.

The permit, issued to Cabrera on Sept. 9, 2002, was for cattle grazing, raising other livestock, and for agricultural and farming purposes.

On Jan. 17 this year, CPA received a letter from former mayor Prudencio Manglona, asking Deleon Guerrero to reconsider the revocation of Cabrera's permit. Cabrera is the former mayor's sister-in-law.

Manglona, according to CPA, offered to pay the past due amount in monthly installments and will pay $300 to renew the permit. CPA said, however, that nothing in the record indicates that Cabrera or Manglona paid CPA.

The former mayor then filed an appeal and he was granted power of attorney to act for Cabrera on Feb. 11. CPA was accused of singling out Cabrera due to her gender, age, medical condition, and political affiliation. The former mayor described the permit's revocation as "capricious, arbitrary, and unlawful."

Since the appeal was filed with the CPA board, chair Jose Lifoifoi created an ad hoc committee led by Benigno Sablan to assess and make a recommendation on the issue.

Yesterday, after disclosing the committee's findings, Sablan recommended that the board uphold the executive director's decision.

Sablan said that, based on the panel's findings, Cabrera no longer lives on Rota and that the CPA property in question was described as "abandoned."

Interviews with some witnesses, he said, also indicate that there's no sign of cattle and that no single animal was ever seen being raised in the area in the last few years.

When the committee visited the lot, they discovered that the fences were dilapidated and broken.

According to Sablan, the grazing permit was revoked for two reasons: non-payment since 2007 and no notice of renewal by the permittee.

Based on the permit, CPA can cancel the permit at any time provided that the permittee is given written notice not less than 45 days prior to the effective date of cancellation.

"In its notice of termination, CPA provided notice that the grazing permit is terminated, and provided the 45 days' timeframe to vacate the area. We uphold CPA's decision to terminate as this termination was executed in accordance with the rules and regulations, and the provisions of the grazing permit," states the committee decision, which the board adopted yesterday.

Sablan said that they have received no communication from Cabrera and that CPA correctly rejected the renewal of the grazing permit for her.

Brabu
Pharmacy and Wellness Center
Would like to thank all the people who picked up trees to plant in celebration of Earth and Arbor Day.
Individuals: Elizabeth Lam, Jin Han, Rose Aguon, Roxanne Diaz, Sonya Dancoe, Dolores Castro, Mayor Donald Flores, Lee Taitano, Susana Deleon Guerrero, Loretolynn Itibus, Lucy Hurst, Ming, Jerry Facey, Maria P. Muna, Yrine Angeles, Teresita N. Blas, Medina Mallari, Melvin Faisao, Olive Aninon, Emelio B. Avelino, Ella Baysa, Eula Matsumoto, Dolores Saures, Tricia Diaz, Tony Adriano, Frances Muna, Lori Sablan, Jean Rabauliman, Rhia Guerrero, Bill Matson, Juan Lizama, Dr. James Hofschneider, Travilla Ferdinand, Nathania Maui, Jocelyn Corpuz, Maureen Sebangiol, Dominic Chong, Sandra Fe L. Abella, Gloria Romolor, Frank Sablan, Christina Babauta, Luz Baldero, Bina Wabol, Faustina Camacho, Frances Sablan, Delia Castro, Liwayway Raganot, Veronica Velesco, Ricardo Camacho, Carmen Cruz, James Matsumoto, Jesusa Dris, Serge Gayaiian, Loc Thi Vu, and Denise King.
Villages: As Matuis, As Lito, Kanat Tabla, San Vicente, Gualo Rai, Capital Hill, Shoreline, Papago, Chalan Laulau, As Teo, As Perdido, Koberlerville, Dandan, Garapan, Oleai, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Kagman, Navy Hill, As Lito, Susupe, San Vicente, San Roque San Antonio, China Town, Sadog Tasi, San Jose, Rota
Types of Trees: Tangerine, Avocado, Mango, Putting, Decorative Beetlenut, Pandanus
6 types of trees, 85 total, planted in 27 villages on Saipan and in 1 on Rota
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Prosecution, defense rest in trial of Michael Jackson

The prosecution and the defense lawyers rested their cases yesterday in the ongoing jury trial of Michael Anthony Jackson, a 34-year-old man accused of kidnapping and raping a minor.

Assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and James McAllister rested their case after calling a total of 10 witnesses, including the alleged victim, to the witness stand.

Jackson's counsels, Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig and assistant public defender Daniel Guidotti, also rested their cases after calling three witnesses. Jackson did not testify.

Jackson

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho was discussing jury instructions with the lawyers.

Closing arguments are expected to start today at 10am.

Police said the then 15-year-old girl was walking along Tun Joaquin Doi Road in Fina Sisu on her way home on Oct. 9, 2010, at 1am when Jackson allegedly forced her into his car, brought her to an open field south of the Saipan airport, and allegedly raped her inside his vehicle.

Jackson allegedly also forced the girl to smoke "ice" or marijuana or methamphetamine. In her testimony on Tuesday, the girl mentioned marijuana and not "ice."

Jackson has pleaded not guilty. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

GMS students do well at regional PGFC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, third from right, back row, poses with coaches, teachers and winning GMS students at the regional Primary Grade Forensic Competition held at Hopwood Junior High School on April 20, 2013.

Congratulations to all participating students from Green Meadow School for their outstanding performance at the Regional Primary Grade Forensic Competition held on April 20, 2013, at Hopwood Junior High School.

First graders Ariel Legaspi and Areeza Anda led the medal harvest in the K2 Division, winning gold in Dramatic Interpretation and Duo Interpretation. Ten students from the second-grade class contributed four silvers and one bronze to the medal count. Fourth and fifth place honors were also won in two other categories.

Competitors from GMS in the 3-5 Division encountered stiff competition but succeeded in bringing home two bronze medals in two categories and placing fourth and fifth, respectively, in Dramatic Interpretation and Choral Speaking.

Congratulations also and thanks to our coaches and volunteer judges. Thanks to parents and friends for their untiring support."

K-2 DIVISION
- 1st Place (Gold Medal) - Dramatic Interpretation: Ariel Legaspi, 1st Grade
- 1st Place (Gold Medal) - Duo Interpretation: Ariel Legaspi, 1st Grade; Areeza Anda, 1st Grade
- 2nd Place (Silver Medal) - Dramatic Interpretation: Jill Anne Mallari, 2nd Grade
- 2nd Place (Silver Medal) - Humorous Interpretation: Jill Anne Mallari, 2nd Grade
- 2nd Place (Silver Medal) - Duo Interpretation: Kezia Arugay, 2nd Grade; Cloe Lagmay, 2nd Grade
- 2nd Place (Silver Medal) - Choral Speaking: Christian Bhert Daniel, 2nd Grade; Lyndon Digno, 2nd Grade; Raphael Galang, 2nd Grade; Christian Ted Pamintuan, 2nd Grade; Keith Gester Villasin, 2nd Grade
- 3rd Place (Bronze Medal) - Duo Interpretation: Leunyce Regalado, 2nd Grade; Lyndon Digno, 2nd Grade
- 4th Place - Duo Interpretation: Kyna Sales, 2nd Grade; Keith Villasin, 2nd Grade
- 5th Place - Humorous Interpretation: Raphael Galang, 2nd Grade

3-5 DIVISION
- 3rd Place (Bronze Medal) - Duo Interpretation: Natalie Jane Hirshbein, 5th Grade; Ashley Reganit, 5th Grade
- 3rd Place (Bronze Medal) - Choral Speaking: Art Vincent Alfeche, 5th Grade; Kimvherly Dela Cruz, 5th Grade; Ian Willard Ranin, 5th Grade; Ashley Reganit, 5th Grade
- 4th Place - Dramatic Interpretation: Natalie Jane Hirsbein, 5th Grade
- 5th Place - Choral Speaking: Aldraine Galang, 4th Grade; Gia Gerrine Hemley, 4th Grade; Mikee Mame Mendoza, 4th Grade; Miles Gregory Navarro, 4th Grade; Renz Lester Satur, 4th Grade

COACHES:
1st Grade : Meliza Umali
2nd Grade: Bona Angeles
3rd Grade: Ana Liza Quiambao
4th Grade: Manuel Castro
5th Grade: Eleonor Alejo
PGFC Coordinator: Eleonor Alejo
Volunteer judges: Sony Natividad, Lorelisa Espiritu

Flashback
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 25, 2003

$1.2M retro checks out today
The Department of Finance confirmed today's release of the second batch of retroactive salary payments to past and present Saipan government employees pursuant to Saipan Public Law 13-11. Finance Secretary Frank Villanueva yesterday disclosed that the checks amounting to some $1.2 million will go out to 1,148 individuals. Retired employees or individuals now out of government service affected by this retroactive salary adjustment can claim their checks at the CNMI Treasury in Capitol Hill, from 8am to 4pm today. This latest retroactive payouts, the second since SLL 13-11 came into effect, comes two months earlier than expected.

Calls to Crime Stopper now free of charge
The CNMI Crime Stoppers has hooked up with telecommunication company Verizon Pacifica to raise community involvement to another level, by making calls to the anti-crime organization free of charge starting yesterday. Verizon Pacifica sales and marketing department product manager Hans Mickelson said the company continues to support the NMI Crime Stoppers in its objective to help solve crimes and give justice to where it is due. Toward this end, Verizon would now allow all cellular phones-both prepaid and post-paid-free access to the Crime Stoppers Tips Line. Mickelson explained that this Verizon-Crime Stoppers partnership would benefit not only Saipan residents but also Tinian and Rota residents who wish to share pertinent information with the anti-crime group.

April 25, 2004

Anatahan erupts anew
Nearly a year after its first eruption, the Anatahan volcano has erupted again and has been spewing ashes up to an altitude of 10,000 ft. that is drifting northwest in the direction of the Philippines. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said yesterday that the U.S. Geological Services has already warned concerned sectors, including the aviation industry, about the situation. Also, Babauta said that he has ordered the Department of Public Health to be ready for any health and medical emergencies arising from the Anatahan seismic activity. Babauta noted, though, that Saipan, Tinian, and Rota remain free from any ash fall.

Direct Saipan-Manila flights on for whole year
Continental Micronesia has decided to make its twice-a-week direct Saipan-Manila flights permanent up to the end of this year-a sign of the route's increasing viability. Continental Airlines Saipan Office Manager Ivan Quichocho disclosed that the Saipan-Manila flights have been effective since the direct air service began in December 2003, prompting Continental Micronesia management to decide to make it permanent for the rest of the year. The direct air service was originally planned to run up to February 2003. Since then, Continental Airlines has already twice suspended its supposed deadline, first in February, then in April.

April 25, 2005

Rota expects 55K tourists by 2012
$22-M airport extension to increase arrivals by 50%
Travelers visiting Rota would increase to 55,000 annually by 2012, five years after the expected completion of the $22-million Rota International Airport runway extension. This forecast represents a 50-percent growth to the 36,000 tourists currently visiting Rota every year. It is based on the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s plan to add 1,000 feet to the existing runway, which is 6,000 feet. Previously, CPA had projected that passenger activity at the Rota airport would increase to a maximum of 58,000 by 2007 and 120,000 by 2012 once the runway extension was completed.

Price of LPG to go up 15 percent
Increased freight costs following consecutive fuel price adjustments have begun to impact the liquefied petroleum gas distribution industry on Saipan, with major players disclosing plans to increase prices by up to 15 percent very soon. By May 1, Saipan Industrial Gas Inc. will implement price increases that will peg the price of 90-lb. LPG’s at $79 each at delivery rate, higher by $4 than the current price of $75. The company will also adjust prices of other LPG products, including those in 20-lb. and 40-lb. tanks. Its competitor, Wushin Corp., also plans to take on price adjustments. Wushin’s retail arm, DL Corp., disclosed that the parent company had already received a notice from its Guam supplier, South Pacific Petroleum Corp., about increased freight costs.

Learn how to identify misbranded pesticides, devices

The Division of Environmental Quality will be conducting a workshop on how to recognize misbranded pesticide and pesticide devices.

The primary audience for this workshop are employees of CNMI Customs, CNMI Quarantine, and the Bureau of Environmental Health. These agencies are crucial to the enforcement of pesticide regulations. It is critical that DEQ provide education to Customs, Quarantine and BEH in order to prevent the entry of illegal pesticides and help achieve compliance.

In order to address the current pesticide importation challenges, DEQ is proposing to host a series of half-day pesticide importation workshops on May 9, Thursday, and repeated on May 15, 2013, Wednesday. Both days shall have two sessions: 8:30am to 11:30am and 1:30pm to 4:30pm.

The workshop agenda includes but is not limited to an overview of regulations (importation, authority and scope, detainment); understanding labels and recognizing signs for illegal pesticides and devices; and the screening process.

Workshop for Tinian and Rota has yet to be scheduled.

Send an email to reinacamacho@deq.gov.mp to register for any of the workshops. Or complete the registration form available on the website http://deq.gov.mp/artdoc/Sec7art223ID803.pdf.

For more information, contact the pesticide program at 664-8500/12/07. ***(DEQ)***

Richard Defan earns Eagle Scout rank

Richard Defan, 18, son of John and Dorothy Defan, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and a Court of Honor will be held for him on Sunday, April 28, at 6pm.

To earn the rank of Eagle, a scout is required to attend campouts, earn merit badges, and demonstrate specific skills that are physically and mentally challenging. Less than 5 percent of scouts worldwide attain this goal. Defan has been a Boy Scout and member of Troop 913 for six years.

When asked what was his most difficult, challenging, and rewarding experience, Defan said it was his Eagle Scout Project, which involved working with the Department of Public Works as they began to implement the Adopt-a-Highway program.

The program is a promotional campaign promoted by U.S. states, provinces and territories of Canada, and national governments outside North America, which encourages local businesses and organizations to keep a section of a highway free from litter. In exchange for regular litter removal, an organization is allowed to have its name posted on a sign in the section of the highways they maintain.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Court of Honor will be held for Richard Defan, 18, on Sunday, April 28, at 6pm, for earning the rank of Eagle Scout.

Working with DPW under a grant that covered the cost of the signs but not the manpower and other costs associated with installing the poles, Defan solicited donations to cover the costs of two sets of poles and GPPC generously donated an additional two sets of poles. Defan also organized volunteers who dug holes and installed the four sets of poles that can now be spotted all around Saipan.

After earning his Eagle, Defan will continue to be an active scout in Troop 913, by supporting others in their quest for the rank of Eagle.

Once an Eagle, always an Eagle, and all those who are Eagle Scouts are invited to take their place at the "Eagle's Nest."

The local Boy Scouts chapter is inviting the public to join them for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor being held for Defan, which will be held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (near McDonald's) on Middle Road, Chalan Laulau. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MBA DOES WELL AT NFL

Marianas Baptist Academy has four national representatives to the U.S. wide National Forensic League' national competition to be held in Birmingham, Alabama, this June 16-21, 2013. They are Eunice Park for U.S. Extemporaneous, third from right; Alina Ishikawa for Original Oratory, third from left; Se Young Hwang for Expository, second from left; and Savannah Delos Santos, center, for Prose Reading. MBA coach George M. Gomez, leftmost, said that these 4 MBA representatives are part of the 16-member CNMI National Team. They will be living for Birmingham, Alabama on June 15, 2013 and will be back to Saipan on June 24, 2013.

30th Islandwide Cleanup tomorrow, Saturday

The 30th Annual Islandwide Cleanup as part of the Division of Environmental Quality's Environmental Awareness Month will be held on Friday, April 26, 2013, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm, and Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 8am to 11am. (Schedules may vary based on volunteer group needs.)

Last year, a total of 522 volunteers participated in the event and we managed to get rid of 7,960 lbs of trash throughout the island. This year, our current total of 2,165 volunteers will be cleaning at various locations and we look forward to more groups signing up. Let us continue our community involvement and work together to clean our environment!

For more information on participating in this year's Islandwide Cleanup, call the DEQ Office at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

WANTED

SPORTS REPORTER

The *Saipan Tribune* is looking for a full-time sports reporter.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Above average writing skills, with strong grasp of grammar and syntax;
- Minimum two years' experience in sports writing;
- Must be able to write stories based on score sheets;
- Can work fast within deadlines and in a stressful environment;
- Must be able to work on holidays, weekends, late nights, and on short notice;
- Fast learner, self-starter, and a team player;
- Computer literate;
- With photography skills;
- Must have reliable means of transportation.

If you have what it takes to be part of a dynamic team, email you résumé and samples of your work to editor@saipantribune.com. You may also drop it off at the *Saipan Tribune* office on the second floor of the JP Center Building on Beach Road, Garapan. On-island hires preferred.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities, and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Kanoa Resort
Saipan

SPORTS & RECREATION MANAGER

Our Resort is looking for a qualified US worker candidate with previous Sports & Recreation management experience who is results driven and customer focused. He/she will take an active role within the management team and help direct and control the operation of the S&R Department and coordinate its activities in accordance with the Resort's business objectives.

As the Sports & Recreation Manager, the responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Leading, developing and implementing activities that appeal to a wide range of personalities and ages
- Completing needs assessments to determine what activities are needed, how often these will be offered, how seasons will affect these activities and what space or venue is required and available for participants
- Researching possible activity ideas, trying or sampling new activities and evaluating them as needed
- Creating activity schedules that reflects the Resort's needs and conceptualizing activities, which include but not limited to: kids club, sports activities, guest incentives, special packages, cultural activities, fitness center, cooperate events and tournaments
- Supervising sports and recreational staff members including lifeguards and other employees connected to the implementation of activities

Qualifications:

- Minimum Education: Associates degree in an appropriate field or equivalent years of relevant experience
- Minimum Experience: At least 3 years experience in sports and recreation, at managerial capacity, in a five-star Hotel, Club, or Resort
- Ability to work flexible hours including nights, weekends, and holidays
- Excellent communication, organizational, and multitasking skills are a must
- Team player

Interested applicants may send their applications to hr@kanoaresort.com. Application Forms may be obtained at our Security Office located at the back wing of our Resort. To be considered, applications must be submitted not later than May 15, 2013. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.

Kanoa Resort is an Equal Opportunity Employer
Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are urged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 82

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

We can't even agree on what to call them

The following editorial appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer *on Friday, April 19:*

The debate over immigration reform has raised a question that's almost as challenging: What should we call the approximately 11 million people who are in the United States illegally?

The term illegal immigrants has been used routinely and often considered neutral. News organizations, including *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, have used it for years to describe people by their actions. But there is a case to be made that it dehumanizes a class of people by suggesting that they themselves are somehow against the law.

Many in the media are reconsidering the term now that the Associated Press has revised its guidance via its Stylebook, a bible of journalistic usage. At the urging of immigration activists, the AP recently declared that its writers will be discouraged from using the words "illegal immigrant" to describe a person. (Illegal immigration is still OK because it refers to the unlawful act.)

A similar argument has been made—and more widely accepted—for avoiding terms that define people by an illness or disability. For example, the AP discourages the term "schizophrenics," preferring "people with schizophrenia," which certainly seems reasonable.

While the AP deserves credit for tackling such a thorny issue, its guidance is somewhat disappointing in that it does not recommend a replacement term. Instead, it suggests that writers make every effort to fully describe a person's immigration status instead of relying on shorthand. But that raises questions about how a large group of people who are in the country illegally should be described.

Inquirer editor William K. Marimow said the newspaper is reviewing its usage. "It's an issue of importance," he said. "I don't have the right answer, but it seems that saying what the person did or didn't do is a fair and accurate approach."

The debate has spread to Congress, where Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Ill., has introduced a resolution urging House members not to refer to "undocumented foreign nationals" as "illegal immigrants." While Rush and others prefer the term undocumented, the AP has discouraged its general use because many immigrants lack certain required documents but not others.

With a sweeping immigration reform bill introduced in Congress this week, the Associated Press' decision is a timely reminder that this debate is about people who broke the law, not people who are against the law. Otherwise law-abiding immigrants who are here illegally want and deserve a chance to become citizens and contribute more to society. The only label they want is American.

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MLQ, MLK, RF queue *adieu*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Manuel L. Quezon was a Filipino politician whose brand of Philippine nationalism kept us focused on the country as we watched Am-Cham businesses rape the treasures of the natural resource. Though MLQ died exactly a year before I was born, serving his term as president of the Philippine Commonwealth during WWII in the U.S., his voice was constantly echoed in the household of my maternal relations. A great uncle was a local hero. He was a personal friend of MLQ.

I realized in my teens that MLQ's brand of nationalism served a good cause in the '30s and '40s, but mine for the '60s had to be my own. The evils of narrow nationalism had joined economic imperialism and cultural parochialism as the critical issues of my time, and what had been patriotic against U.S. and Japan occupations have turned into corrupt practices in the Philippine "independent" dispensation.

April in my memory occasioned a critical turning point in Dallas, Texas, 1968. I ran into a couple of Pinoys at a shopping mall who were assigned to an NAS north of the city, eager to connect to a *kababayan* (compatriot). I was then playing secretary to the president of the local Fil-Am Association, so I was in a hospitable mood. I asked them to come by my dorm at the pretentiously Ivy League-like university I attended.

On their next off-duty day, they were at my door with a fifth of Scotch, ready to party. Though it was a Saturday, I was a part-time night worker at the university motel, and with graduate school study load, I was not particularly eager to imbibe on the juice of the grain on a study night, so I let them empty the bottle while I sipped the afternoon away. It was the fourth of April.

When the bottle was finally empty, neither of my guests were steady enough to drive back. Checking the bus schedule, and seeing that I could make it back to my night shift on time, I took the steering wheel and drove out of town.

At the outskirt, the owner of the car thought he could handle the rest of the drive. I could get to the backseat to catch my z-z-z-z, so I gave him the steering wheel while we would merrily be on our way.

Well, not quite. The talkative driver had the nasty habit of turning his head in my direction instead of occasionally looking at the rearview mirror when he spoke, needing eye-connect. He missed an intersection coming down from a hilltop at 75 miles per hour.

It was 30 minutes later when I came to, and I managed to slide out of the back of the car while the two guys were slumped up front, profusely bleeding. They neither had their seatbelts on and both their heads shattered the windshield.

Firemen hosed the smoldering vehicles down. Ours looked like crumpled tinfoil. But it was dusk and I managed to get to a public phone without anyone noticing. Quickly, my roommate came to pick me up.

By the time we reached the university, I was a frozen dough, incapable of moving. The adrenaline that had kept me up subsided; I was wheel-chaired into the infirmary.

Four hours later, the telephone rang. A North Carolina colleague was in tears. Riots were keeping her Greensboro in flames. When I asked why they were rioting, she told me to listen to the TV newscast. That's when I heard that MLK Jr. had been shot at a motel balcony in Memphis, Tennessee. When hearing the news, my attending white nurse said: "Thank God, they finally got the nigger!"

That was a bumpy encounter in the crossroads of reality. I was in a protest march in Washington, D.C., less than a month before, led by MLK Jr. His demise plus the nurse's comments dug deep into the recesses of my soul.

As I did earlier with MLQ, I bid MLK "adieu" on Saipan. I have a photo of civil right luminaries one crispy January morn in front of the newly opened American Memorial Park Visitors' Center, with lawyer Joe Hill, Judge Ken Govendo, legislator Cinta Kaipat, *et al,* holding a banner on MLK's birthday. MLK was no longer in the fringes. In 2007, Obama made it to the White House, time to consign the dreamer to the Mall. The front has been won; the rest is mopping up operations.

We were on queue at the Retirement Fund when we needed medical attention for spondylosis. A few years behind in its contributions, GovCNMI's negligence was a cruel scam, so I withdrew my deductions and attended to my own medical needs *sans* the grace of a referral.

Earlier, we assisted PSS teachers hired on the promise of retirement benefits after three years retain that right lost on legislation. That victory might ring hollow in a year.

After MLQ and MLK, I realized that when in the journey of care and in the service of compassion, one creates one's own map of the terrain. *I Have a Dream* has to be one's very own.

I was born and bred in the Judeo-Christian tradition of awakening, to being a chosen one. In my reformed adulthood, I discovered that one chooses to be chosen. While amazing grace does strike without one's plea, I still had to consent to being chosen. So I did, as did MLQ, and the King.

The chosen ones who still cling to the utopian delusion of the RF queue might reconsider. *Adieu* might very well be the choice of the day!

Finattun mattirun tiempu

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of Department of Public Lands.*

Mampos katma i pañgpañg mañglu'. Ni un' hagun troñku kalalamten. Kontodu i pajaru gi magapahes paraisu, apenas. Doble maipe gi finatton fañumnagan 'nai todu cha'guan yan hagun troñku manmalahyu. I chinatsaga oppan 'sino faila' gi matan tautau-ta siha.

I kinalamten familia didog ma-utot sin ditension. Todo sientimos ma-adahe. Hasan gaston kinibrutu ya fitme inadahen pottanmoneda. Todu asuntu gumagama gi kuentas familia yan i sakrifisiu ni debi uma-eksisia pot chinatsagan tirun mat-tiempu.

Este na chinatsaga inembrarasa hinemlu' deste probleman sisteman hinemlu', hinemlu familia ni kada ratu matompu' gi halom tai sinaguan na pottanmoneda; ayudun salape' para i famaguonta ni man-eskuekuela kolehu; sasyan familia yan primet gima' familia, entre 'nos kuantos makat na asuntu siha.

Didog mas i chinatsaga ya sige hana' fan tostus todu i ha soda' gi karera kulan milag guafen botkan. Buente dinanche planon i dumiñgu iya Marianas kuattru 'sino sais años malofan para sanlagu 'nai mas megai appottunidat lina'la'.

Mas ke sais mit (6,000) esta pagu mantai che'chu'. Sige kuentos para ma'utot bente pot sientu (20%) gaston gobietnu. Lau kau haf' na preparasion yan ayudu mana'e i komunidan bisnis para u fitme tumachu ya u chahlau ayu na empleau i manlalailai gi kantun para umana' fan basta? Ti umaya i mansañgan gi fatsu na che'chu' linahyan.

Suette na guaha programan ayudun neñkanu' (NAP) 'sino dañkulun inetnon u presenta siha gi hegsu' I Deni' diariu. Lau i chinatsaga asuntunto-ta ya debi u guaha dididi' pinasensia gi kinalamten satbasion, yangin guaguaha' kampu para ensegidas na satbasion.

Kulan chiop i suetteta siha gi ochenta na sakan. Maliñgon halom gi estrakadan hinalom bisiun diskuidu. Hita ha' pa'gu pumadedese diskuiduta. Hita lokue' solu mangaige para ta aregla ha'anita.

Selebrasion kuttura

Gi mapos na semana maselebra kutturan islas siha. Deste baila, che'chu' attista yan sentadan isla manmapega gi lugat selebrasion para konsuman todus bisita.

He e'ñgulu ñaihon kau sumaunau i bailan fayao—bailan palitu gi famalao'an—lau ti patte gi selebrasion bailan isla. Lau duru i "lovely hula" hands, bailan ginen Polynesia ni matatpañge "contemporary dance", kulan modetnu na finabrikan bailan kuttura.

Ti huli'e mamostra 'sino fatta haf' mina' likidu i kutturan isla gi halom man-natibu. Buente gai mutmorasion maplanuye este na patte gi kuttura para benefisiun todus. Enfin, duru i bailan Polynesia ni ma-adapta kumu "modetnu" na usun yeñgyuñg.

Haf' mohon na planu mas fitme para ta abiba yan umatisa kutturan yan tradision tanu'? Mauleg i man-menhalom uma'atan i kuestion ya deste pa'gu umatutuhon planun diberas gi manala'lal' fafayen tautau tanu' deste antigun a tiempu.

Tirun sientimus

Mientras iya Filipinas ha anununsia $430 miyon na pottanmonedan para umahatsa nuebu na plasan batkon aire giya Cebu, sige hit guine man-manufuñg sientimos para ta katsu pottanmonedan tano'ta.

Gi mismu tiempu, i bisinuta Indonesia ha esgagaihon halom $6.7 biyon pesus na salape' ginen kometsianten ginen hiyuñg. Hu faisen mamaisayu' haf' na ti Marianas 'nai mayute' fiñkas niha. Sige e'salau lau afagau na bos ginen sabanan iya Marianas.

Diberas, mientras dañosu i areglon ginen halom añgoku na apenas kometsiante ginen hiyuñg. Uttimoña hita ha' man-afulu' gi hilu' plaset diskuidu ni hita umestablese. De dios mihu!

I diskuidu ginen halom. Kulan mohon mantai problema hit mandidog siha na asuntu. Mientras mamatmos i kaha sa' hokog fondu, sige man-sabiu mañgarera hiyoñg Marianas. Na ti gaige problema guine? Haf' bisnis niha mañgarera 'nai ti apas fleti para i numesessita mana' fan hanau taya' gi fondun programan medical referral?

Mampos i mañan muron te'ug ya kulan mohon ignorante i publiku gi haf' masusesede. No señor! Kabales kinemprenden publiku nu todus i in' hasñgon siha na malabida. Ñgai'an mohon 'nai siña guaha satton na modun representasion interes publiku? Kau para ta sige ha' bumohau hagas malumot halom guma'? Mañgge promesan proteksion publiku?

Mampos na'tata fafayen promesa ni hinehegse ni che'chu' diskuidu yan malabida.

■ ■ ■ ■

Humanau i prohimu mañgobla hagas dibi. Ilegña i amiguña, "Na ayau-yu' ta'lu kosake siña bai' apase hau ginen i nuebu na dibi". De dios mihu na insuttu. Lau estague' na estau 'nai mangaige hit na biahe.

■ ■ ■ ■

Ilegña i amiguhu Magoo pot probleman fiñkas, "Mampos hit mañgontentu achogha' kimasosson apusientota. Gi uttimu ora 'nai sige hit man-ensinahyau 'nai esta taya' remediu". Dinanche fino'ña lau sige ha' ta chukan hagas diskuidu. Haye adai gaige gi gima?

Running remains a worthy fitness activity

By LYNNE K. VARNER
THE SEATTLE TIMES

The Boston Marathon bombing was a sucker punch to the innocent host of a long and proud tradition. But this resilient historic city is already getting back on its feet.

Thus, my concerns shift closer to home and to the broader, long-term impact of the explosions that killed three people and injured more than 170, some horribly.

What happens now to the growing grass-roots movement to inspire more people of color, especially women, to take up distance running?

Every city has its fitness buffs, but Seattle turned running into a form of civic engagement. People here are as apt to connect while taking a turn around Green Lake Park as they are in one of our ubiquitous coffee houses.

You would be hard pressed to find someone in the Emerald City who doesn't identify as either a runner, an aspiring runner or a former runner with bad knees.

In Seattle, running is an identity, not just a pastime. We run, therefore we are.

I run. Not as hard as I did when I trained for a full marathon. But the value of running, and the guilt, still gets me out on the pavement.

Good health should be a common pursuit, but my motivations are part geography and part awareness of the disproportionately high rates of heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure and diabetes among African-Americans. According to Public Health—Seattle & King County, this region is home to some of the greatest health disparities found in any American city.

Back to my concern: How do we remain enthusiastic about distance running after a destructive act exposed our vulnerability?

"We ain't scared," a national running organization for African-American women, Black Girls RUN!, posted on Twitter after the attacks.

I hope that is true. Only time will tell.

I know that memorial runs/walks and exercises in honor of Boston are taking place around the country and in Seattle. Some people are committing to running 3.3 miles over the next eight days—for a total of 26.2 miles—to send the message that terrorism won't kill enthusiasm for running.

Let's do it.

Let's run.

Don't fear dying from a terrorist attack during a marathon. Do fear dying if you don't take up an exercise like running.

More than one-third of U.S. adults, 35.7 percent, are obese, but 4 out of 5 black women are overweight or obese.

Do not concede good health, or the potential for it, to terrorism.

That would diminish the impact of the National Black Marathoners' Association, an 8-year-old nonprofit predicted by Runner's World magazine to change the face of the sport.

A 2013 survey by Running USA, a national organization that promotes running, found that about 90 percent of competitive runners are white, 5 percent are Hispanic and 4 percent are Asian. African-American runners make up about 3 percent.

Black Girls RUN! has more than 50,000 members in 60 affiliate groups around the country. This month they welcomed their newest affiliate, Tacoma/Seattle.

The new local group's inaugural run is set for a week from Saturday at Seward Park. I've run that loop, its one of the best trails in the city.

The Boston Marathon bombing is now placed alongside mass murders at schools, Olympic Games and office buildings.

Without a hint of false bravado or other feigned emotions, we should take note of those events and go on with our plans.

Run, girls, run. We are not afraid.

Lynne K. Varner is a columnist for The Seattle Times*. Readers may send her email at lvarner@seattletimes.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unfair competition

On Saipan, only Korean tour agencies employ over a hundred tour guides. With such a superfluous amount of tour guides, Korean tour agencies prevent the tourists from having a comfortable and affordable time on Saipan. Moreover, Korean tour guides do not get paid in set wages by their agencies. Instead of the minimum wage on Saipan, Korean tour guides are paid with commissions. Because of this, Korean tour guides must sell expensive optional tours to tourists in order to make money for themselves.

The Korean tourism market is a limited business. For example, the vehicles used to transport tourists are privately owned by tour guides. Although it is generally the responsibility of companies to provide vehicles for their employees, it is not so with Korean tour agencies. Korean tour agencies do not provide vehicles, and they do not pay their tour guides with wages, but with commissions based solely on their sales. Because of such business practices, Korean tour agencies are able to minimize any losses or responsibilities while making the most money.

Tour agencies should offer tourists a more satisfactory experience through a free market, in which agencies can compete with each other for better rates and services. A free market provides customers with higher-quality services at a more affordable cost.

However, Korean tour agencies are acting in collusion to prevent their monopoly from toppling. The Korean Tour Association of Saipan, or KTAS, is the center of the pressure that is restricting a free market with competitive rates. Mi Rae Tour started to provide more affordable rates and better services on Saipan since 2007, against the expensive optional tour method of KTAS. As word spread through the Internet and people shared their experiences, the free market approach by Mi Rae Tour became increasingly popular. KTAS, sensing crisis, started to interfere with the business of Mi Rae Tour. KTAS pressured businesses that Mi Rae Tour was operating with, that they should not accept reservations from Mi Rae Tour. KTAS has impeded the business of Mi Rae Tour by blocking reservations and customers.

Because of the collusion of KTAS, Mi Rae Tour is unwittingly suffering losses. Many tourism companies and services are being told by KTAS to reject reservations by Mi Rae Tour. Mi Rae Tour strives to provide the best service and rates to its customers, but it is not able to give its best due to the circumstances. Instead of a healthy competition, the Korean tour agencies promote a monopoly. If continued, Mi Rae Tour will not be able to compete, and the Korean tourism market on Saipan will not improve.

Yang Tack Hwang
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan

Respect for Northern Islanders

The proposed military development on the island of Pagan is stirring many sentiments among the people of the Northern Marianas, in particular, the residents of Pagan and Tinian.

First, go down to Tinian and see for yourself how the northern end of Tinian looks like today. Where are the empty promises from the military with respect to building schools, PX facility, and benefiting the local farmers? What's been taking the military long to fully develop the northern end of Tinian? Are there any health dangers in existence at present anywhere inside the northern end of Tinian? How many bombs were detonated to force Japan to surrender? Are there any leftover undetonated bomb or bombs that nobody knows where they are hidden all this time?

Now, let's jump onto the island of Pagan. There have been many residents who have lived all their lives in the Northern Islands, whether on Pagan or other surrounding neighbor islands. The military should first consider compensating these families who deserve the best respect of compensation. These families are the Saures, Kaipat, Taisakan, Inden, Lisua, Matagolai, Santos, Wabol, Castro, Tataki, Blas, and many other families that I could no longer remember. These families deserve negotiation and compensation action for the sacrifices of their lands, homesteads, and other pending waiver land issues/claims that they have been waiting for many years.

The residents of Pagan should stand up with one heart and fight for their rights. The residents of Tinian should consider supporting the residents of the Northern Islands in their quest. The CNMI Legislature should march behind the residents of the Northern Islands. And the governor and lieutenant governor should stand at the frontline to defend the residents of the Northern Islands.

Yes, the military can hold control over Pagan Island through eminent domain, but they are people too who can listen to the voices, concerns, wisdoms, and demands of the residents of the Northern Islands.

Angelino Evangelista
San Jose, Tinian

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

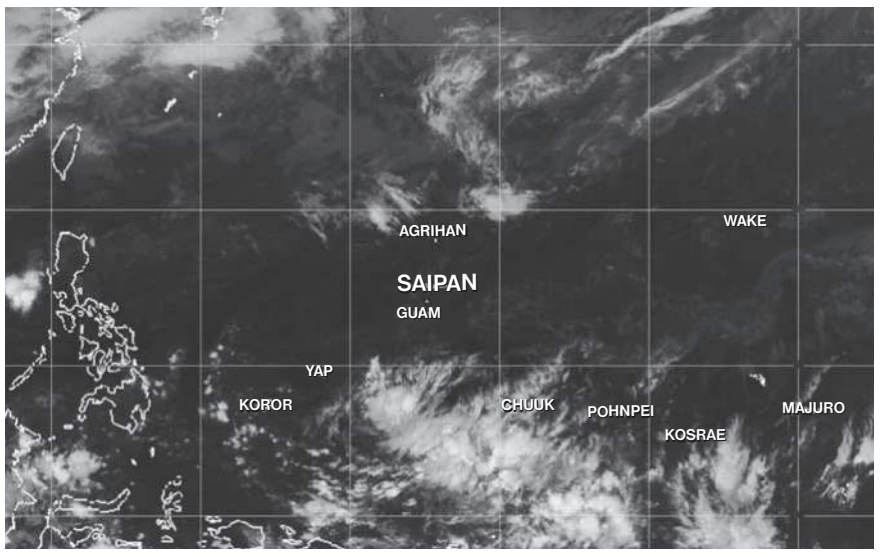
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲92	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	▲86	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲68	▼63
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼48
Hong Kong	Showers	▲73	▼71
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲67	▼46
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲93	▼83
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼72
New York	Sunny	▲63	▼46
Osaka	Windy	▲64	▼51
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼56
Pusan	Windy	▲65	▼49
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼62
Salem	Sunny	▲74	▼47
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲63	▼51
Seoul	Sunny	▲61	▼43
Tokyo	Showers	▲67	▼51
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲66	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from east of Minami Tori Shima at 25N162E to 22N155E then continues as a shear line to 20N150E and 19N140E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 250 miles north of this boundary. In addition, a few thunderstorms are occurring along the shear line from 21N151E to 19N141E. A near-equatorial trough extends from 1N130E to 1N149E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found well southeast of Yap and Palau between the equator and 4N from 138E to 143E. A weak surface trough stretches from 1N150E northwestward to about 8N142E. Low-level convergence east and northeast of the trough axis is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms from east of Yap to southwest of Chuuk and Pohnpei within 150 miles either side of a line from 10N141E to EQ156E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Kosrae and Majuro between the equator and 4N from 161E to 168E and within 100 miles either side of a line from 2N172E to 6N180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:02 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:42 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:30 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:56 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Saturday	5:56 AM	6:34 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM
Monday	5:55 AM	6:34 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:01 PM	5:07 AM
Friday	7:03 PM	5:57 AM
Saturday	8:05 PM	6:51 AM
Sunday	9:08 PM	7:49 AM
Monday	10:09 PM	8:50 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 4, 2013

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)

SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:20pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:45am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	8:10pm	1:40am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN

SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:05am	12:45am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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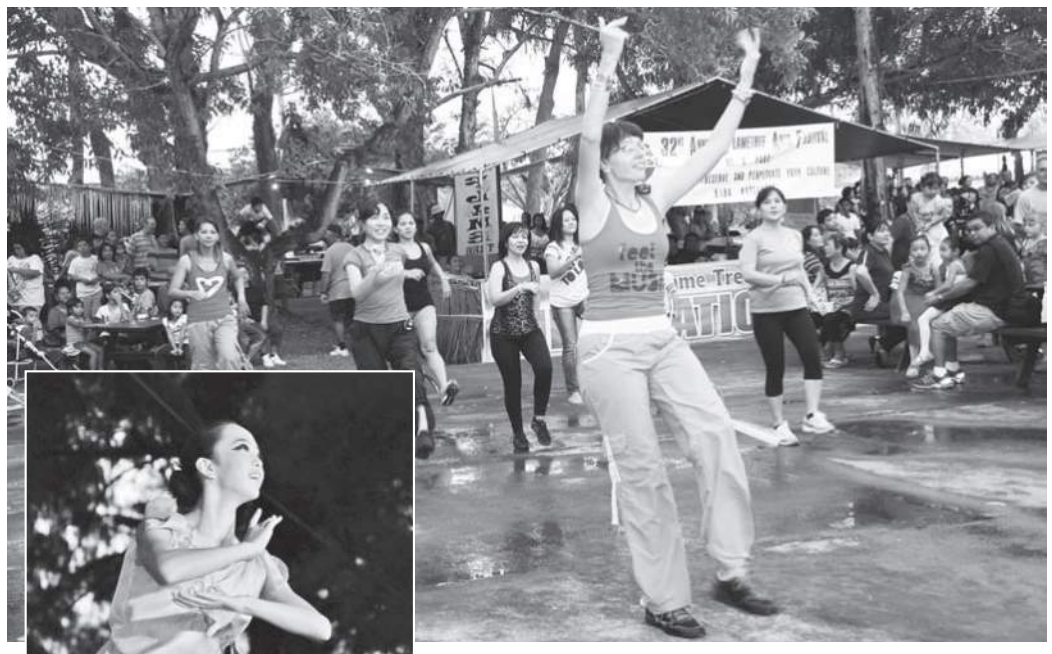
32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival

PHOTOS by CLARISSA V. DAVID

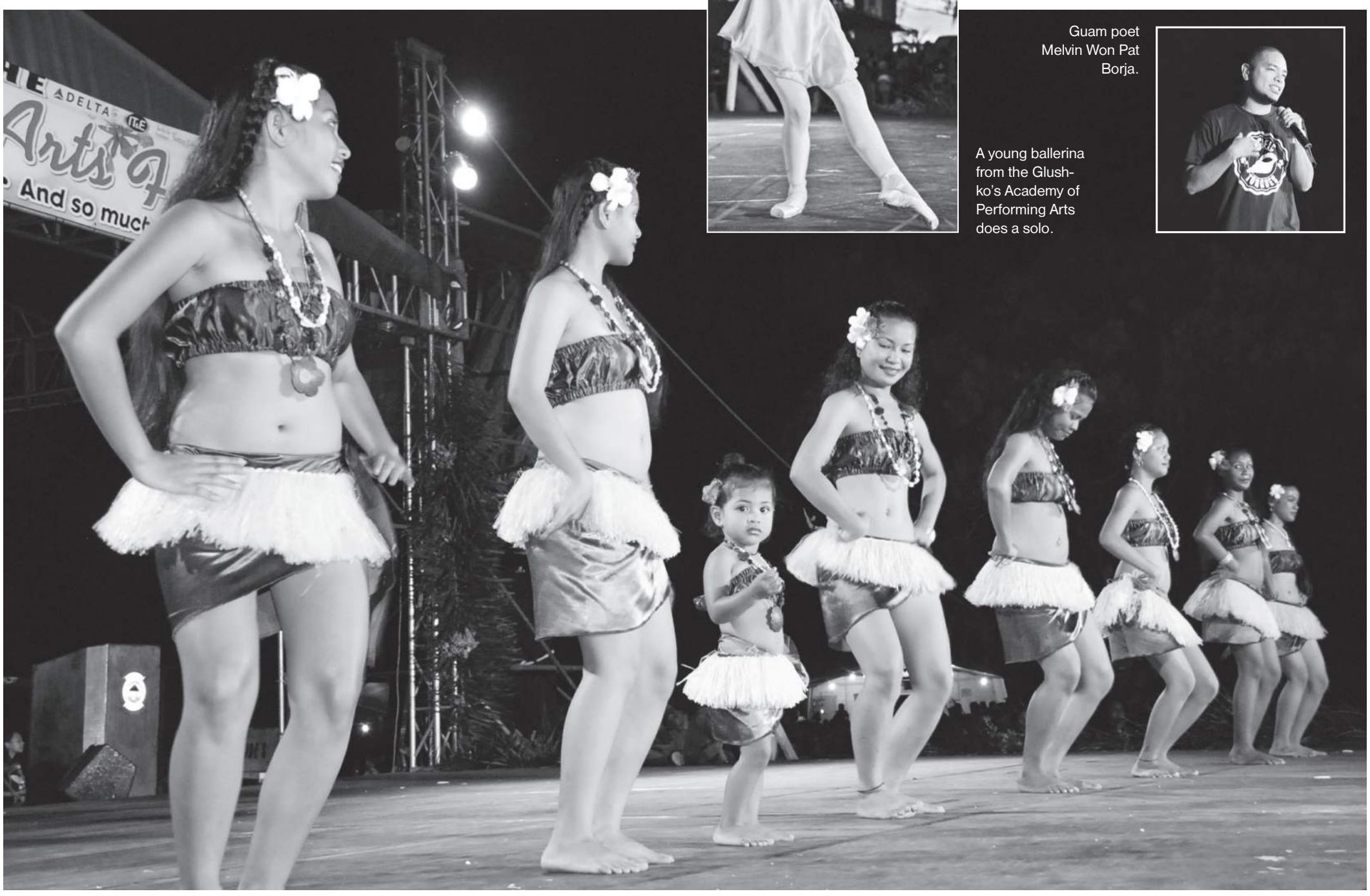
A performing group takes center stage on Saturday morning.



Zumba instructor Eli Stoilova invites the crowd to dance along.

A young ballerina from the Glushko's Academy of Performing Arts does a solo.

Guam poet Melvin Won Pat Borja.



A young girl joins members of the Cab Dancers during their performance at the opening night of the 32nd Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival held at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

Chamorro Affairs president Joseph Artero-Cameron of Guam pose for a photo with Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog and a festival volunteer.

Arts Council executive director Angel S. Hocog with some of the delegates from Rota.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council Maria T. Salinas, right, enjoys the festival program with her visiting sister, Rosa Taitano Herrero, of San Jose, California.

Business

Airline service improves but delays still possible

AP

Travelers stand in line at Los Angeles International airport in Los Angeles Monday, April 22, 2013.

NEW YORK (AP)—A day after flight delays plagued much of the nation, air travel was smoother Tuesday, but the government warned passengers that the situation could change by the hour as thousands of air-traffic controllers are forced to take furloughs because of budget cuts.

Meanwhile, airlines and members of Congress urged the Federal Aviation Administration to find other ways to reduce spending. Airlines are worried about the long-term costs late flights will have on their budgets and on passengers.

"I just can't imagine this stays in place for an extended period of time. It's just such terrible policy," US Airways CEO Doug Parker said. "We can handle it for a little while, but it can't continue."

The delays are the most visible effect yet of Congress and the White House's failure to agree on a long-term deficit-reduction plan.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said no one should be surprised, noting that he warned about the potential for problems two months ago.

His solution: Blame Congress for the larger budget cuts that affected all of government, including a $600 million hit to the Federal Aviation Administration.

"This has nothing to do with politics," LaHood said. "This is very bad policy that Congress passed, and they should fix it."

Critics of the FAA insist the agency could reduce its budget in other ways that would not inconvenience travelers.

Sens. John D. Rockefeller IV, a West Virginia Democrat, and John Thune, a Republican from South Dakota, sent a letter to LaHood on Monday accusing the FAA of being "slow and disturbingly limited" in response to their questions. They suggested the FAA could divert money from other accounts, such as those devoted to research, commercial space transportation and modernization of the air-traffic control computers.

Others in Congress urged the Obama administration to postpone the furlough for at least 30 days.

In the past five years, the FAA's operating budget has grown by 10.4 percent while the number of domestic commercial flights has fallen 13 percent.

"There's no cause for this. It's a cheap political stunt," said Michael Boyd, an aviation consultant who does work for the major airlines.

The FAA says the numbers aren't so clear cut. In that time, the government has signed a new, more expensive contract with air traffic controllers, added 400 new aviation safety inspectors and beefed up its payroll to deploy a new air traffic-control computer system.

So given the budget cuts, FAA officials say they now have no choice but to furlough all 47,000 agency employees—including nearly 15,000 controllers—because salaries make up 70 percent of the agency's budget. Each employee will lose one day of work every two weeks.

Napolitano: Immigration bill would boost security

WASHINGTON (AP)—Sweeping immigration legislation would improve U.S. security by helping authorities to know who is in the country, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said Tuesday, as supporters of an immigration overhaul marshaled arguments against opponents trying to slow it down in the wake of the Boston Marathon bombings.

Napolitano

Testifying at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, Napolitano said a wide-ranging bill circulating in Congress devotes more money to securing the border, requires employers to verify their workers' identity and implements new systems to track people as they leave the country—something that might have helped flag when one of the suspected Boston bombers traveled to Russia last year. Of great importance, Napolitano said, is the eventual path to citizenship for the 11 million immigrants here illegally.

Republicans have criticized such a path as a divisive proposal that rewards law-breakers. But Napolitano said it is a fundamental tool to help law enforcement authorities know who is here.

"One of the real significant improvements made by this bill is to bring people out of the shadows," she said. "We know who they are. We know where they are. And by the way, from a police perspective, once these people know that every time they interact with law enforcement they won't be subject to removal, it will help with the reporting of crimes, the willingness to be a witness and so forth."

Napolitano's support for legislation that's a top second-term priority for President Barack Obama was no surprise. While in the past she has criticized the idea of making a path to citizenship conditional on accomplishing border security goals first—as the new bill does—Napolitano didn't repeat that criticism Tuesday. Instead she said that the border security "triggers" in the bill are achievable, suggesting they wouldn't loom as major impediments to citizenship.

Napolitano's testimony came as last week's Boston Marathon bombings have clouded the introduction of the landmark immigration legislation, with Republicans suggesting it should be slowed down or revisited until more is known about any loopholes in the immigration system that the Boston bombers may have exploited, or national security flaws that should be addressed in the bill. An author of the bill, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., was considering an amendment to require tougher background checks for certain immigrants deemed to pose a higher risk, such as those seeking asylum, an aide said late Tuesday.

But so far there's no indication the two suspected bombers, brothers of Chechen origin, violated U.S. immigration laws. They came legally about a decade ago when their family sought asylum, and both became legal permanent residents while one eventually attained U.S. citizenship.

BoH: $36M net income in 1Q

Bank of Hawaii Corp. reported diluted earnings per share of $0.81 for the first quarter of 2013, down from $0.90 in the previous quarter and $0.95 in the same quarter last year. Net income for the first quarter of 2013 was $ 36.0 million, a decrease of $4.3 million compared with the net income of $40.3 million in the fourth quarter of 2012, and down $7.8 million from net income of $43.8 million in the first quarter of 2012.

Loan and lease balances were $5.78 billion at the end of the first quarter of 2013 compared with loan and lease balances of $5.85 billion at the end of the fourth quarter of 2012 as growth in commercial loans was more than offsets by reductions in residential mortgage loans. Total deposit balances decreased during the first quarter due to lower levels of public deposits. Consumer and business deposits remain strong during the quarter, up1.4 percent on average compared with the fourth quarter to $126.9 million at March 31, 2013 and represents 2.19 percent of outstanding loans and leases.

"Reduced mortgage income, lower net interest margin, and seasonal expresses resulted in CEO. "Our balance sheet remains solid and we maintained our discipline approach to risk and capital management during the quarter initiative are expected to have a positive impact on operating leverage as we go forward." The return on average assets for the first quarter o 2013 was 1.08 percent, down from 1.19 percent in the previous quarter and 1.29 percent in the first quarter of 2012. The return on average equity for the first quarter of 2013 was 14.10 percent compared with 15.47 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 and 17.26 percent compared with 58.24 percent in the previous quarter and 58.35 percent in the same quarter last year.

- Diluted earnings per share $0.81
- Net income $36.0 million
- Board of Directors declare divident of $0.45 per share ***(BoH)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

US seeks voluntary limits on car touch screens

DETROIT (AP)—The government is asking automakers to put stronger limits on drivers' interaction with in-car touch screens in an effort to curb distracted driving. U.S. traffic safety regulators unveiled guidelines Tuesday that would restrict the amount of time it takes to perform both simple and complex functions on a car's entertainment and navigation systems. Regulators also want to ban manual text entry and display of websites, social media, books and other text distractions while the car is moving. "Distracted driving is unsafe, irresponsible. It can have devastating consequences," said Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, who announced the guidelines along with National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Administrator David Strickland.

Apple to dole out $100B to shareholders

NEW YORK (AP)—Apple is opening the doors to its bank vault, saying it will distribute $100 billion in cash to its shareholders by the end of 2015. At the same time, the company said revenue for the current quarter could fall from the year before, which would be the first decline in many years. Apple CEO Tim Cook also suggested that the company won't release any new products until the fall, contrary to expectations that there would be a new iPhone and iPads out this summer. Apple Inc. on Tuesday said it will expand its share buyback program to $60 billion—the largest buyback authorization in history. It is also raising its dividend by 15 percent from $2.65 to $3.05 per share. That equates to a dividend yield of 3 percent at current stock prices. The average yield for the 20 largest dividend-paying companies in the U.S. is 3.1 percent, according to Standard & Poor's.

Group calls on China to improve Internet security

BEIJING (AP)—An American business group appealed to China on Wednesday to improve online security and ease restrictions on Web use by companies, warning that deteriorating access speeds might discourage foreign investment. The American Chamber of Commerce suggested the Chinese government could speed up Internet access by permitting some companies to circumvent its extensive system of Web filters. "When we compare the Internet in China to the Internet as it exists in other countries such as South Korea or the European Union or the United States, what we see is that it is significantly slower. It is also less reliable and less secure," said the chamber's president, Christian Murck.

Nation

Bomb suspect influenced by mysterious radical

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the years before the Boston Marathon bombings, Tamerlan Tsarnaev fell under the influence of a new friend, a Muslim convert who steered the religiously apathetic young man toward a strict strain of Islam, family members said.

Under the tutelage of a friend known to the Tsarnaev family only as Misha, Tamerlan gave up boxing and stopped studying music, his family said. He began opposing the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. He turned to websites and literature claiming that the CIA was behind the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and Jews controlled the world.

"Somehow, he just took his brain," said Tamerlan's uncle, Ruslan Tsarni, who recalled conversations with Tamerlan's worried father about Misha's influence. Efforts over several days by The Associated Press to identify and interview Misha have been unsuccessful.

Tamerlan's relationship with Misha could be a clue in understanding the motives behind his religious transformation and, ultimately, the attack itself. Two U.S. officials say he had no tie to terrorist groups. Throughout his religious makeover, Tamerlan maintained a strong influence over his siblings, including Dzhokhar, who investigators say carried out the deadly attack by his older brother's side, killing three and injuring 264 people.

"They all loved Tamerlan. He was the eldest one and he, in many ways, was the role model for his sisters and his brother," said Elmirza Khozhugov, 26, the ex-husband of Tamerlan's sister, Ailina. "You could always hear his younger brother and sisters say, `Tamerlan said this,' and `Tamerlan said that.' Dzhokhar loved him. He would do whatever Tamerlan would say.

"Even my ex-wife loved him so much and respected him so much," Khozhugov said. "I'd have arguments with her and if Tamerlan took my side, she would agree: `OK, if Tamerlan said it.'"

Khozhugov said he was close to Tamerlan when he was married and they kept in touch for a while but drifted apart in the past two years or so. He spoke to the AP from his home in Almaty, Kazakhstan. A family member in the United States provided the contact information.

Tamerlan Tsarnaev was killed in a police shootout Friday. Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was charged Monday with using a weapon of mass destruction to kill, and he could face the death penalty if convicted.

"Of course I was shocked and surprised that he was Suspect No. 1," Khozhugov said, recalling the days after the bombing when the FBI identified Tamerlan as the primary suspect. "But after a few hours of thinking about it, I thought it could be possible that he did it."

Based on preliminary written interviews with Dzhokar in his hospital bed, U.S. officials believe the brothers were motivated by their religious views. It has not been clear, however, what those views were.

AP

A house where Tsarnaev brothers, Dzhokhar and Tamerlan suspects in the Boston Marathon bombings, lived in before leaving for Dagestan, in a small Kyrgyz city Tokmok east of the country's capital of Bishkek, on Friday, April 20, 2013.

Charges dropped in ricin letters sent to Obama

TUPELO, Miss. (AP)—Charges of sending ricin-laced letters to President Barack Obama and others were dropped Tuesday against an Elvis impersonator from Mississippi who has said since his arrest last week that he had nothing to do with the case.

Meanwhile, in Tupelo, numerous law enforcement officers converged on the home of another Mississippi man, Everett Dutschke, including some in hazmat suits. No charges have been filed against him and he hasn't been arrested. Both men say they have no idea how to make the poisonous ricin and had nothing to do with sending them to Obama, U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi and a state judge.

Referring to officials' questions for him about the case, "I thought they said rice and I said I don't even eat rice," 45-year-old Paul Kevin Curtis said after he was released from custody Tuesday afternoon. "I respect President Obama. I love my country and would never do anything to pose a threat to him or any other U.S. official."

A one-sentence document filed by federal prosecutors said charges against Curtis were dropped, but left open the possibility they could be re-instated if authorities found more to prove their case. Prosecutors were not immediately available for comment.

The dismissal is the latest twist in a case that rattled the country already on edge over the Boston Marathon bombing last week.

Curtis was well-known to Wicker because he had written to the Republican and other officials about black-market body parts he claimed to have found while working at a hospital—a claim the hospital says is untrue. Curtis also wrote a book called "Missing Pieces" about his claims and posted similar language on his Facebook page and elsewhere. The documents indicate Curtis had been distrustful of the government for years.

He told The Associated Press Tuesday that he realizes his writings made him an easy target.

"God will get the glory from here on out. It's nothing about me. It's nothing about my book. It's nothing about the hospital. After 13 years of losing everything I have turned it over to God. After all these years God was the missing piece," Curtis said.

The two men the FBI are investigating are not strangers. Dutschke said the two had a falling out and that the last contact they had was in 2010. Dutschke said he threatened to sue Curtis for saying he was a member of Mensa, a group for people with high IQs.

Since his arrest at his Corinth home on April 17, attorneys for Curtis say their client didn't do it and suggested he was framed. An FBI agent testified in court this week that no evidence of ricin was found in searches of his home.

Dutschke (DUHST'-kee) said in a phone interview with the AP that the FBI was at his home for the search connected to the mailings. Dutschke said his house was also searched last week.

"I don't know how much more of this I can take," Dutschke said just before 7 p.m. CDT, as investigators continued to comb his house.

Curtis attorney Hal Neilson said the defense gave authorities a list of people who may have had a reason to hurt Curtis.

"Dutschke came up," he said. "They (prosecutors) took it and ran with it. I could not tell you if he's the man or he's not the man, but there was something there they wanted to look into."

3 murder charges against Pa. abortion doc tossed

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A judge tossed three of eight murder charges Tuesday in the high-profile trial of an abortion doctor accused of killing babies prosecutors say were born alive at a clinic they dubbed "a house of horrors."

Dr. Kermit Gosnell, 72, still faces the death penalty if convicted on four remaining counts of first-degree murder involving babies he's accused of killing with scissors after they were born alive.

Judge Jeffrey Minehart did not explain why he dismissed the three murder counts but apparently felt he had not heard sufficient evidence from prosecutors that those three babies were viable, born alive and then killed. Much of the evidence during the five-week prosecution case has come from the recollections of former staff members, though their testimony was bolstered by graphic photographs of some of the aborted babies.

Prosecutors argued that the babies were viable and that Gosnell and his staff cut the backs of their necks to kill them.

"Why would you cut a baby in the back of the neck unless you were killing it?" Assistant District Attorney Ed Cameron asked.

The defense questioned testimony from staffers who said they had seen babies move, cry or breathe. Defense lawyer Jack McMahon argued that each testified to seeing only one movement or breath.

"These are not the movements of a live child," McMahon said. "There is not one piece—not one—of objective, scientific evidence that anyone was born alive."

The judge also upheld murder charges in a patient's overdose death. Gosnell is charged with third-degree murder in the 2009 death of 41-year-old Karnamaya Mongar, a recent refugee to the U.S. who died after an abortion at hiss Women's Medical Society.

McMahon argued that third-degree requires malice, or "conscious disregard" for her life.

"She wasn't treated any differently than any of the other thousands of other people who went through there," McMahon argued Tuesday, in a preview of his likely closing arguments.

ACROSS THE NATION

Los Angeles settles with women fired on in manhunt

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The city of Los Angeles reached a $4.2 million settlement with a mother and daughter who were injured when police mistakenly opened fire on them while they were delivering newspapers during the manhunt for disgruntled ex-cop Christopher Dorner, officials said Tuesday. The money will be split evenly, with $2.1 million going to each woman, said Frank Mateljan, a spokesman for the city attorney's office. The agreement must still be approved by the Los Angeles City Council. Margie Carranza and her 71-year-old mother, Emma Hernandez, were delivering papers around 5 a.m. on Feb. 7 when LAPD officers guarding the Torrance home of a target named in an online Dorner manifesto blasted at least 100 rounds at their pickup.

Boy, 15, fatally shot near Obama's Chicago home

CHICAGO (AP)—A 15-year-old boy was shot and killed in a backyard about four blocks from President Barack Obama's Chicago home, police said Tuesday. Cornelius German of Chicago was found unresponsive around 9:40 p.m. Monday. He had been shot in the back and was pronounced dead at the scene on the city's South Side, police told The Associated Press. No arrests had been made as of late Tuesday afternoon, they said.

Texas man gets life in prison in son's starving death

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas father accused of slowly starving his 10-year-old son to death, slipping his body into a sleeping bag and dumping it in a rural area where it went undiscovered for a year was sentenced late Tuesday to life in prison. A Dallas County jury took less than an hour to convict Aaron Ramsey earlier Tuesday of severely injuring a child in the death of his son, Johnathan. Jurors later decided that the 35-year-old Dallas man should receive a life sentence. Prosecutors said the father locked his son in his room, where he slowly starved on a diet of bread and water. They contend Ramsey dumped the child's emaciated body in a rural area south of Dallas in 2011. The boy's remains were found in the area a year ago in a creek.

Asia

AP

A group of Japanese lawmakers leave after they offered prayers at the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo during an annual spring festival on Tuesday, April 23, 2013.

Japan war shrine reflects ruling party nationalism

TOKYO (AP)—Visits by Cabinet ministers and lawmakers to a shrine honoring Japan's war dead, including 14 World War II leaders convicted of atrocities, signal Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's determination to pursue a more nationalist agenda after months of focusing on the economy.

Nearly 170 Japanese lawmakers paid homage at Yasukuni Shrine on Tuesday. A day earlier, visits by three Cabinet ministers, said by the government to be unofficial, drew protests from neighbors South Korea and China over actions they view as failures to acknowledge Japan's militaristic past.

China and South Korea—Japan's No. 1 and No. 3 trading partners, respectively—bore the brunt of Tokyo's pre-1945 militarist expansion in Asia and routinely criticize visits to the shrine. Almost seven decades after the war ended, it still overshadows relations.

Adding to the discord, Chinese surveillance vessels were patrolling Tuesday near a cluster of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea that are controlled by Japan but claimed by both countries.

China's State Oceanic Administration said Tuesday that its maritime surveillance ships had chased away a group of Japanese ultra-nationalists who visited the area.

The Japanese government spokesman, Yoshihide Suga, said the intrusion by a record eight Chinese vessels into Japan's territorial waters was "unacceptable" and that Tokyo had lodged formal protests with the Chinese government. The nationalist group that China accused of attempting to land on the islands could not be immediately reached.

Abe told parliament Tuesday that if Chinese citizens were to land on the islands, Japan would forcibly remove them.

India accuses China of crossing de facto border

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has accused Chinese soldiers of launching an incursion far into Indian territory, in the latest flare-up of tension between the two Asian giants over their de facto boundary in the Himalayas. Chinese troops entered 10 kilometers (six miles) into Indian territory on April 15 and pitched tents in the Depsang valley in the Ladakh region of eastern Kashmir, an Indian official said Tuesday.

Indian army commanders have met at least two times with their Chinese counterparts, but Chinese troops remain in Indian-claimed territory, said Tsering Angchuk, a civil administrator in Ladakh.

"They have not vacated the position so far," he said.

China dismissed reports of an incursion as Indian media speculation and said the border region has been peaceful.

"The two parties have maintained good communication and coordination on the border issue," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Tuesday.

A day earlier, Hua said Chinese troops had "patrolled the border line and did not go one step across the Line of Actual Control," the unofficial boundary between the two countries.

India says Chinese troops have repeatedly crossed the boundary in recent years, leaving trash with Chinese markings as evidence of their presence. However, Indian officials said the new incursion was far deeper into Indian-claimed territory than before.

ASIA BRIEFS

Myanmar hails EU lifting of sanctions

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei (AP)—Myanmar on Tuesday hailed a European Union decision lifting political and economic sanctions against the former pariah state, pledging to continue its reforms and march toward democracy. Senior Myanmar diplomat Aung Lynn told reporters on the sidelines of an Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference in Brunei's capital, Bandar Seri Begawan, that the international community can expect more reforms, especially in the socio-economic sectors. "This is a very good beginning," he told reporters, adding that Myanmar recognizes the still enormous work ahead for one of Southeast Asia's most least-developed states.

Bangladesh building collapse kills 3, traps others

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—A fire official says an 8-story commercial building near Bangladesh's capital has collapsed, killing three people and possibly trapping many more. Fire official Md Jibon Mia says the building housing shops, a bank and a garment factory collapsed early Wednesday. He says three bodies have been recovered and many are feared to have been trapped.

World

Syrian war increasingly drawing in Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP)—As fighting rages just across the border, Lebanese are giving signs of joining the battle on rival sides of Syria's civil war—Sunnis on the side of the rebels, Shiites on the side of the regime—raising fears that Lebanon with its volatile sectarian divisions will be dragged into the conflict.

Two influential Lebanese Sunni clerics this week called on members of their community to wage "holy war" in Syria to defend their brethren. They accused Lebanon's Shiite Hezbollah group of sending fighters to attack Syrian Sunnis, who make up the backbone of that country's rebellion.

On Tuesday, around two dozen men lined up in the office of one of the clerics in the southern coastal city of Sidon, signing up to join the jihad.

In recent days, tensions have been fueled by heavy fighting inside Syria close to the border with Lebanon, where regime forces have made strong gains in a campaign to secure a corridor from the capital Damascus to the Mediterranean coast.

The Syrian military has been helped in the fight by Shiite Lebanese fighters who are supported by Hezbollah. The powerful Lebanese militant group says it is not sending fighters but supports the so-called "popular committees" that have joined the fighting to defend their fellow Shiites in Syria.

Rockets from Syria have hit mostly Shiite areas in Lebanon on daily basis, apparently from Syrian rebels in retaliation for Lebanese Shiite help to the regime forces. Rockets killed at least two people this week and are reaching deeper into Lebanese territory. There are also fears that Islamic militants among the Syrian rebels could carry out direct attacks in Lebanon in revenge for Hezbollah's support of the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"Lebanon is on the edge of the cliff," warned lawmaker Sami Gemayel. "We are dragging the conflict from Syria into our country. It's like the border between the two countries no longer exist," he told reporters Tuesday

Lebanon is sharply split between supporters and opponents of Assad, a legacy of decades of Syrian political and military dominance over its smaller neighbor. The split largely falls along sectarian lines, with Sunnis opposing Assad and Shiites backing him. That mirrors the divisions within Syria itself, where mainly Sunni rebels are battling Assad's regime, dominated by the Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiism. Since it began in March 2011, Syria's conflict has fueled local tensions between the communities in Lebanon, with bouts of street fighting and kidnappings.

In the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli on Monday, a group of Sunnis captured an Alawite man, stripped him to the waist, tied a rope around his neck as they paraded him through the streets. "I am an Alawite shabiha," was written on his bare chest, referring to Syria's feared pro-Assad militiamen.

In recent days, unknown assailants set fire to Alawite-owned shops and also hurled stones at a bus carrying Alawites in Tripoli, a predominantly Sunni city with a small Alawite community.

The intense fighting near the border has raised the temperature considerably.

The Qusair region where the fighting is taking place is strategic because it links the Syrian capital Damascus with the Mediterranean coastal enclave that is the heartland of Assad's Alawite sect. Syrian rebels accuse Hezbollah of fighting alongside Assad's troops and attacking rebels from inside Lebanese territory.

Suspect in Canada terror plot denies charges

TORONTO (AP)—A man accused of plotting with al-Qaida members in Iran to derail a train in Canada rejected the charges and said Tuesday that authorities were basing their conclusions on appearances. Law enforcement officials in the U.S. said the target was a train that runs between New York City and Canada.

Canadian investigators say Raed Jaser, 35, and his suspected accomplice Chiheb Esseghaier, 30, received guidance—but no money—from members of al-Qaida in Iran. Iran released a statement saying it had nothing to do with the plot, even though there were no claims in Canada that the attacks were sponsored directly by Iran.

But the case raised questions about the extent of Shiite-led Iran's relationship with the predominantly Sunni Arab terrorist network. It also renewed attention on Iran's complicated history with the terror group, which ranges from outright hostility to alliances of convenience and even overtures by Tehran to assist Washington after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

"We oppose any terrorist and violent action that would jeopardize lives of innocent people," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said Tuesday. Charges against the two men in Canada include conspiring to carry out an attack and murder people in association with a terrorist group. Police—tipped off by an imam worried by the behavior of one of the suspects—said it was the first known attack planned by al-Qaida in Canada.

Law officials in New York with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press the attack was to take place on the Canadian side of the border. They are not authorized to discuss the investigation and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Amtrak and Via Rail Canada jointly operate routes between the United States and Canada, including the Maple Leaf from New York City to Toronto.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Canada has kept New York posted on the investigation.

French protest against gay marriage turns violent

PARIS (AP)—France legalized gay marriage on Tuesday after a wrenching national debate that exposed deep conservatism in the nation's heartland and triggered huge demonstrations that tapped into intense discontent with the Socialist government. Within hours, fiery clashes broke out between protesters and riot police.

Legions of officers stayed late into the night, and a protest against the measure turned violent near the Invalides complex of museums and monuments. Protesters threw glass bottles, cans and metal bars at police, who responded with tear gas.

It was an issue that galvanized the country's faltering right, which had been decimated by infighting and their election loss to President Francois Hollande. France is the 14th country to legalize gay marriage nationwide -and the most populous. The measure passed easily in the Socialist-majority Assembly, 331-225, just after the president of the legislative body expelled a disruptive protester in pink, the color adopted by French opponents of gay marriage.

Justice Minister Christiane Taubira told lawmakers that the first weddings could be as soon as June.

"We believe that the first weddings will be beautiful and that they'll bring a breeze of joy, and that those who are opposed to them today will surely be confounded when they are overcome with the happiness of the newlyweds and the families," she said.

Focus

AP

In this Feb. 17, 2010, photo, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, left, smiles after accepting the trophy for winning the 2010 New England Golden Gloves Championship from Dr. Joseph Downes, right, in Lowell, Mass.

The radicalization of TAMERLAN TSARNAEV

By ALISSA DE CARBONNEL
REUTERS

MAKHACHKALA, Russia/CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts—In America, he had been a cocky and charismatic heavyweight boxer who wore fancy pointy leather shoes and slick white shirts down to the gym.

In Dagestan, the volatile southern Russian region where he lived for a time as a teen and returned to spend the first half of 2012, he became a quiet young man who spent his days online studying Islam, nursing a growing anger against heretics.

Exactly what turned Tamerlan Tsarnaev into the suspect accused of three murders and mass wounding in the Boston Marathon bombings may never be known. He died in a gunfight with police leaving no explanation. His younger brother and alleged co-conspirator Dzhokhar is in hospital, barely able to speak.

But a picture has emerged in the days since Tamerlan was killed of a proud but angry young man who never quite achieved his own idea of the American dream, but found solace instead in a radical form of Islam adopted by fighters in his homeland.

What now seems clear is that he was deeply influenced by a few months' sojourn in Makhachkala, Muslim Dagestan's capital on the Caspian Sea, where children in the street play "cops and guerrillas" and bombings and shootings are everyday news.

"His radical turn could very well have happened here," Dagestani sociologist Zaid Abdulagatov said. "The Islam that we have in Dagestan today is very tough, very politicized, very dark at times."

As in the cases of other now infamous young men from immigrant backgrounds—like France's Mohammed Merah, who died in a shootout with police a year ago after killing seven people on a gun rampage in Toulouse—it may be impossible to disentangle the psychological demons from political motives.

"It's a complicated mix of reasons, usually as much personal as they are transnational or global," says Rafaello Pantucci, who studies such cases at London's United Royal Services Institute, a defense and security think tank.

"Profiles are almost impossible to draw," he said. "They tend to be under a certain age and are Muslim males. There is usually some kind of outside contact that pushes them along."

This broad pattern seems to have fit the Tsarnaev brothers, ethnic Chechens raised in volatile southern Russia and in Massachusetts by parents who emigrated to seek a better life but never quite made it.

Their father, Anzor Tsarnaev, had held high-status government jobs in the central Asian former Soviet state of Kyrgyzstan, but eventually found work as a mechanic in Massachusetts. Their mother, Zubeidat Tsarnayeva, increasingly turned to religion.

The parents eventually split up and moved back to Dagestan in southern Russia, although their mother was in the United States as recently as last June, when she was arrested by police in Natick, Massachusetts and charged with stealing women's clothing valued at $1,624 from a Lord & Taylor store.

She was also charged with two counts of malicious damage to property after allegedly trying to remove the anti-theft sensors on the clothing, said Lieutenant Brian Grassey of the Natick police. He had no information on the outcome of the case.

The brothers attended Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School, a public school that counts actors Matt Damon and Ben Affleck among its alumni but has a diverse student body that includes working-class immigrants from around the world.

The younger Tsarnaev brother, Dzhokhar, adjusted much more successfully to life in Massachusetts than Tamerlan. Friends describe him as a mild-mannered pot-smoker, and seem genuinely shocked that he could have been involved in violence.

Dzhokar made friends easily in high school and at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth, where fellow students knew him as relaxed, funny, and always up for a game of soccer.

The Twitter feed Dzhokhar's friends have identified as his chronicles a typical, restless teenage life. He's always hungry. He dreams of cheeseburgers. He's not fond of MTV or celery or homework. He jokes with friends about getting high, finding girls, watching the fantasy saga "Game of Thrones" on TV.

In a few tweets, he talks about his roots. Last March, for instance, he used the hashtag #chechnyanpower and then wrote: "a decade in America already, I want out."

A few posts from recent months offer hints of anger. In February, he posted: "Do I look like that much of a softy ... little do these dogs know they're barking at a lion." And in March: "Never underestimate the rebel with a cause."

But mostly, his tweets paint a picture of a laid back college student, with few hints of alienation or anger.

The day after the bombing, he, now notoriously, tweeted: "I'm a stress-free kind of guy." So at ease was he after the attacks that he went to the gym the following night, where he struck up a conversation about it with fellow student Zach Bettencourt.

"This is easy to do," Dzhokhar Tsarnaev said of the bombing, according to Bettencourt who spoke to Reuters. "These tragedies happen all the time in Afghanistan and Iraq."

Several of his friends have launched Facebook and Twitter campaigns proclaiming his innocence and arguing that he was set up. Others have said they believe so strongly in his good character that they would testify for him at trial.

Seriously messing around

Dzhokhar may have been influenced by his charismatic older brother. A video posted on the Internet by the younger Tsarnaev with the caption "My brother, seriously messing around" shows Tamerlan as a mesmerizing goofball, sending up Chechens, Dagestanis and other ex-Soviet minorities with comedy accents in Russian, while the cameraman, presumably Dzhokhar, laughs wildly in admiration.

But it was the charming older Tsarnaev brother who seemed to have a harder time fitting in.

Through high school, and for years afterward, Luis Vasquez thought of his classmate Tamerlan Tsarnaev as "a big, friendly giant", who never lost the accent in his slow, deep voice.

Vasquez first noticed Tsarnaev in the halls of Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School because he always seemed to be just a few steps behind a vivacious group of girls that included Vasquez's girlfriend. Tamerlan was keeping tabs on his younger sister, Bella, Vasquez soon realized.

"If she was in the hallway somewhere, you knew he wasn't too far behind," Vasquez said. "He kept an eye on her, literally."

Bella was a free spirit who "wanted to partake fully in our American society" and thought "it's OK to flirt sometimes", Vasquez said. Tamerlan, however, made it clear that it wasn't OK—not in a menacing way, Vasquez said, but in a "big brother watching little sister kind of way."

"It was an honor thing. He was trying to keep her out of trouble," he said. Bella could not be reached for comment.

Though a bit reserved, Tamerlan was also approachable and friendly, Vasquez said. They stayed in touch for years after high school, bumping into each other in the supermarket, outside the boxing gym or on the Cambridge streets. Vasquez was always struck at how much his friend seemed to want to connect.

"He would look you in the eyes, ask you what was going on with your life," Vasquez said. "He was always leaning in, listening. His respect for other people was a little higher than most have," Vasquez said. "He would care."

The morning after Tamerlan was killed in the shootout, news reports seized on a quote from a caption in a photo essay that showed him training for boxing at a gym, in which he said he had no American friends because no one there understood him.

Vasquez said the quote has been misinterpreted: Tamerlan may have preferred the company of other immigrants and minorities to white, native-born Americans, but he was no loner.

The pictures clearly show him as a cocky, sociable young athlete, confident of his sporting skills, dressing in smart clothes and playboxing with an attractive blonde woman. He was planning to represent New England at a national competition.

Tsarnaev was a bit arrogant when it came to his boxing, "but what athlete isn't cocky?" Vasquez said. "He knew he was good. He was good. So that's OK. No one's going to challenge that."

But about three years ago, Tsnarnaev abruptly dropped off the scene. He removed his Facebook page. Vasquez no longer saw him around the streets.

"He kind of disconnected himself," Vasquez said. He asked mutual friends if they had seen Tsarnaev, if they knew what he was up to. Some said they had heard he went back to Russia. But no one had details. No one knew he had married or had a child.

Not what you'd think of as normal

The American dream never arrived for Tamerlan Tsarnaev. His boxing career didn't work out, nor did his studies at junior college. He was briefly detained by police when a girlfriend complained of violence, but the accusations were dropped.

He married Katherine Russell, a student at Suffolk University from a middle-class Rhode Island background, the daughter of a doctor and a nurse. Katherine converted to Islam and left university without graduating. They had a daughter, Zahara, now 3. Tamerlan seems never to have found a full-time career. His family members say his new wife supported him, while he stayed home with the child.

Mary Silberman, whose apartment backs up to the rooms Tamerlan Tsarnaev rented, said she often heard loud arguments late at night—a woman's voice, mostly, yelling at a man.

"It wasn't enough to call the police," Silberman said. "It didn't sound like anyone was in physical danger." Yet the shouting, erupting at 11 p.m. or midnight, was loud enough to keep her up.

Silberman also heard the couple's young daughter crying frequently at night, the wails so sharp that she wondered why the mother wasn't responding. As the girl grew into a toddler, Silberman would see her sometimes staring out the window.

Their bedroom window had no proper curtains, just two mismatched sheets hung haphazardly to block the light. Plastic bags were stuffed in the sides of the window, apparently to keep out the cold.

"It wasn't what you would think of as normal," Silberman said. The family made her so uncomfortable, she said, that she made sure she pulled her chair out of view of their windows when she sat on her back deck.

The Russell family issued a statement the morning after the shootout saying they realized they had never really known Tamerlan Tsarnaev. The family home in leafy North Kingston Rhode Island is on the market for $467,000, and police cars now patrol the street. Katherine Russell did not respond to requests for comment via her lawyer.

See TSARNAEV on Next Page

Environment

Pew lauds New Caledonia for creating shark sanctuary

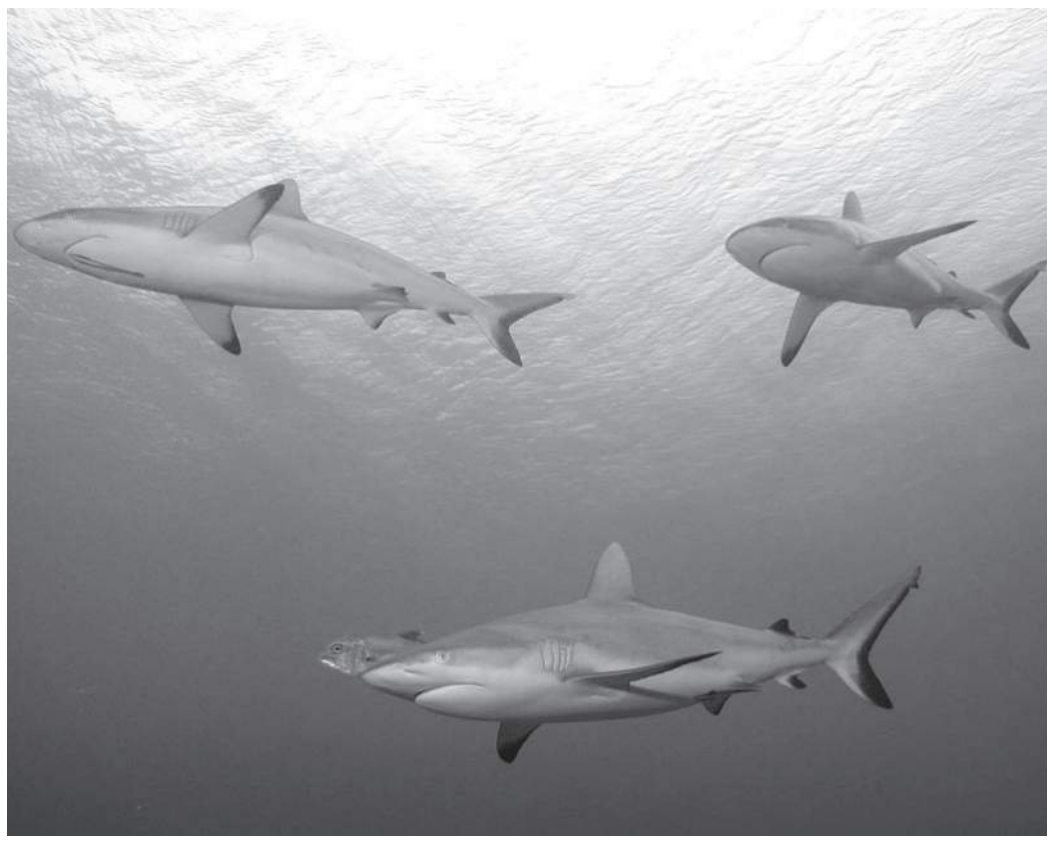
WASHINGTON—Josh Reichert, executive vice president of The Pew Charitable Trusts, issued the following statement yesterday in response to New Caledonia's announcement of comprehensive and permanent shark protections in its waters.

"We applaud New Caledonia's decision to create a shark sanctuary by banning fishing for all shark species in the country's entire exclusive economic zone. At 1,245,000 square kilometers (480,000 square miles), an area roughly the size of South Africa, the ocean around New Caledonia is still healthy and intact, and home to spectacular marine life, including approximately 50 species of sharks.

"In the past few months alone, French Polynesia, the Cook Islands, American Samoa, and the Micronesian state of Kosrae have ended shark fishing in their waters.

"In March, 177 countries voted to protect the oceanic whitetip, porbeagle, and three types of hammerhead sharks during the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. Though great progress is being made, sharks are still threatened throughout much of the world's oceans. The finding of a recent scientific study that approximately 100 million sharks are killed each year in commercial fisheries represents an urgent call to governments around the world to take action before it's too late. Scientists warn that the rate of fishing for sharks, many of which grow slowly and reproduce late in life, is unsustainable and could lead to the extinction of many species.

"The role of sharks is critical to the health of marine systems. One third of shark species are currently threatened or near threatened with extinction, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature. There is an immediate need to protect them before they slip below levels from which they may never recover. It's now up to countries to build on this recent success and ensure a promising future for sharks." ***(Pew Charitable Trusts)***



Gray reef sharks. CAT HOLLOWAY

Trash-In Fashion Show tonight

The Division of Environmental Quality presents the 2013 Environmental Awareness Month of April with a fashion show that highlights Saipan's exceptional high school fashion designers and models.

The *"Trash-In Fashion Show"* will be held tonight, April 25, 2013, from 6pm to 9pm at the Hard Rock Café of DFS Galleria. Guests must have a free ticket to enter.

The recycled clothing created by young fashion designers will be featured on Hard Rock Café's runway where they turn garbage into art. This event is open to the community while tickets last. You can obtain a free ticket by contacting Olivia Tebuteb Tenorio at DEQ at 664-8500/8504.

This year's Environmental Awareness Month celebration has the theme, *"All life of the land, sea and air are one."*

The Division of Environmental Quality urges the community to practice the 4 R's: Reduce-Reuse-Recycle-Respect. ***(DEQ)***

TSARNAEV

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Awakening

Trouble integrating into new communities is an issue for all immigrants. In the case of Chechens who reached the West after the wars of the 1990s, such problems appear to be particularly acute for men who arrived as young adults, said author Oliver Bullough, who has spent years researching the Chechen diaspora.

Chechen culture encourages male bravado, something that has helped Chechens keep their identity through generations of oppression in Russia but which may make some Chechen men particularly prone to feelings of alienation.

"A Chechen man has, I think, a higher sense of self-worth than the average other man in Russia. It's a proud culture. And being in a situation where you are one of life's losers is particularly hard," said Bullough.

Tamerlan returned to Dagestan in 2012, where his mother and father had relocated after splitting up. Family members there who had not seen him for years were surprised by his new interest in religion.

His mother now speaks proudly of his apparent religious awakening, and says she does not believe he would have been capable of the Boston attacks.

"He changed when he started practicing Islam. He would read all the time," she said. "He had started going to nightclubs, but ever since I said to him that 'You are a Muslim, you should not do such things, they are haram', he became more religious," she told Reuters in English in Makhachkala.

During his stay in Dagestan, relatives say, he clearly stood out as an American, speaking Russian with a foreign accent and slipping into English when he could not remember a word.

"I don't think he was interested in friendships," his mother said, adding that he followed lessons online in the Koran to try and understand it in its original Arabic. "He was reading, always in front of the computer—he was taking classes on the Koran," she said.

"He was very interested. He didn't want to read it in translation. He said, 'Mama it's very difficult, but I want to do this'. He really wanted to get into the true reading of the Koran," she said. "I was happy about that."

Like other Chechens, the Tsarnaev brothers would have been steeped in the history of their people, including the two wars waged by Russian forces in Chechnya during their childhood in the 1990s, in which tens of thousands of civilians were killed.

As children, they never lived in the war zone itself: they attended a school in Makhachkala in neighboring Dagestan, a scruffy provincial capital 250 km (160 miles) from the Chechen frontier.

Now, when Tamerlan returned to Dagestan a decade after Russian President Vladimir Putin had crushed the separatist movement in Chechnya, a smaller Islamist insurgency had shifted from Chechnya to Dagestan itself. He would arrive in a city far more religious than the one he had left, and also more violent.

Veils and enveloping Islamic dress are increasingly replacing mini-skirts and high heels. Few cafes or stores now sell alcohol, fearing attacks by militants from an energized sect of strict Islamists known as Salafists, who have their own media outlets, charities and even a soccer club. Shootings and bombings are daily occurrences.

"No one is talking about the Boston bombing because such things happen every day here," said Renat, 36.

"I was taking the bus home from work about a month ago and boom! I don't know if it was a sniper, but the policeman standing at that crossroads there just crumpled," he said pointing to a traffic light.

In the past decade, Islam in Dagestan has been polarized between the Salafist school of orthodox Sunni Islam—which the authorities consider an alien import to the region—and the officially tolerated Sufi school, the traditional form of Islam in the Caucasus for centuries but which rebels now denounce.

The failures of the Russian state—police brutality, corruption, joblessness—have turned youths from the Kremlin-backed mainstream clerics into the embrace of puritanical Islam.

Sufi clerics have been killed by Salafist attackers. Young Salafists, whose ideas chime with those of puritan radicals in the Middle East, have been rounded up and, say rights activists, tortured by the police.

Tamerlan's trail on social media sites and in Russian-language videos posted on YouTube shows that he had taken sides in the dispute. Among his five favorite videos on YouTube is one that denounces Dagestan's traditional Sufi Muslims as heretical idol worshippers.

The young man who posted that video, but did not create it, told Reuters the sentiment it expressed was typical of the region's Salafists, who see themselves as part of a religious war: "His videos are pretty typical of Muslim youths here today: We are against the Sufis, they are against us. There is nothing strange in that," said the man, as he scrolled through Tamerlan's YouTube account in a Makhachkala Internet cafe.

He did not want to be identified for fear of the police.

Going into the forest

Youths from Dagestani villages who join the insurgency are said to "go into the forest." It is not clear if Tamerlan ever went to join them, although some in the region dismiss the prospect as highly unlikely on the grounds that fighters would have been reluctant to trust a man just off a plane from Boston.

U.S. officials have said Russian security services asked the FBI about Tamerlan in early 2011 out of concern he had embraced radical Islam and was going to travel to Russia to join underground groups. FBI agents interviewed him in Massachusetts in 2011 but found no serious reason for alarm. U.S. officials say that the FBI later asked Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) for more information about him but did not receive any.

A Russian security source said Russia's secret police were tracking Tamerlan's movements while he was in Dagestan, but did not consider him "a high risk, just a point of interest."

He seems to have returned to the United States with firm views about Islam, unafraid to challenge authority figures for being insufficiently pious.

Since around the time he returned to Massachusetts he began attending services at the Islamic Society of Boston mosque in Cambridge. He made frequent appearances at Friday afternoon prayer, at times arriving before sunrise—sometimes with his younger brother in tow—for dawn services, said Anwar Kazmi, a member of the mosque's board of trustees.

Members of the congregation vividly remember Tamerlan interrupting the Friday sermon three months ago before the weekend of the U.S. national holiday marking the birthday of civil rights leader Martin Luther King, a Christian preacher.

The imam urged the congregation to learn from the examples of both King and the Prophet Mohammad. Apparently outraged by the comparison between the prophet and a non-Muslim, Tamerlan stood up and shouted "kafir"—infidel—at the imam. He then called the imam a "munafiq," or hypocrite, Kazmi said.

The congregation, several hundred strong, responded by shouting at Tamerlan to leave if he didn't like the sermon, Kazmi said. Afterward, elders sat down with Tamerlan and explained that he had committed a serious breach of etiquette with his outburst. "He seemed to understand," Kazmi said—and continued to worship at the mosque, never again expressing such rage.

That outburst surprised some in the congregation because Tamerlan had previously been seen as an easy-going, inoffensive member of the community. He had also gone out of his way to find one particular man and apologize for a slight he remembered his father committing years earlier, Kazmi said. His father, a part-time mechanic, had taken in the man's car to repair but delayed the job for weeks. Tamerlan found the man and personally apologized for that delay.

More recently, in the last few months, Tamerlan came across the same man stranded on the side of the road, his car having run out of fuel. He immediately offered to help, fetching a canister from his apartment, filling it at a station and returning to the stranded motorist to get him on his way again.

Kazmi said he could not mesh that portrait of a helpful neighbor with the picture of a ruthless killer that has emerged in recent days: "How do you reconcile the two?" Kamzi mused.

"That's what everyone is trying to answer."

Additional reporting by Myra MacDonald, Svea Herbst-Bayliss, Timothy Heritage, Mark Hosenball and Peter Graff; Writing by Peter Graff; editing by Janet McBride.

Life & Style

Ben Affleck says he'll 'Live Below the Line' on $1.50 a day

By NARDINE SAAD
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The idea of Ben Affleck living on $1.50 a day sounds ridiculous, right? Maybe just as ridiculous as Hugh Jackman doing the same thing.

The "Argo" director-producer-star is the latest celebrity showing his support for the Global Poverty Project's Live Below the Line campaign, a position Jackman initiated for the organization in 2011.

The Oscar winner took on the organization's challenge to spend five days feeding himself on only $1.50 a day, which is the the U.S. equivalent of the extreme poverty line. He showed his support for the initiative on Twitter.

"1.4 billion people live on less than $1.50/day. I'm joining Live #BelowTheLine on behalf of @easterncongo. Will you?" Affleck tweeted.

Affleck

The challenge is meant to "give a glimpse into the lives of 1.4 billion people who have no choice but to live below the line every day—and who have to make $1.50 cover a lot more than food," according to the organization's website.

Jonah Hill, Sophia Bush, Katie Couric and Scooter Braun also tweeted their support for the cause. And Debi Mazar and Hunter Biden are among other celebrities who have lended their names to the project.

"In today's world, extreme poverty and inequality are unjustifiable and unfair. Live Below the Line demonstrates the problem in a concrete way, while raising money to address the problem," said musician Josh Groban, who has raised $4,700 for the cause so far.

"The Avengers" actor Tom Hiddleston posted a video of himself on his fifth day on the challenge that he shot in his kitchen. His lunch was a simple baked potato. He also tweeted his meals while completing the challenge, which included boiled rice with veggies or an omelet and kidney beans.

"Profoundly aware that to live truly #belowtheline I would have to forego many & various privileges....," he noted in early April, adding, "To live truly #belowtheline I would have to surrender the roof over my head, gas, electricity, and clean, running water."

Push to alter British succession rules nearly done

LONDON (AP)—Legislation that will end a centuries-old British rule that puts boys before girls in the succession to the throne has cleared the House of Lords, and now goes to Queen Elizabeth II for approval.

The change means that if Prince William and the former Kate Middleton have a girl first, she will become queen, and no younger brother will be able to jump the line and displace her.

The legislation also permits an heir to the throne to marry a Catholic, though Catholics would still be barred from succeeding to the throne.

The bill, which has been fast-tracked through Parliament, passed a third and final reading in the House of Lords Monday.

The government wants to change current laws, which date back to the 1701 Act of Settlement, before the royal couple's first child is born in July. The baby will be third in line to the throne after William and his father Prince Charles.

Kate, formally known as the Duchess of Cambridge, has kept up a fairly busy schedule of royal engagements since becoming pregnant.

On Tuesday, she visited a school in Manchester to launch a counseling project and meet workers from a youth mental health services charity.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Dwayne Johnson tweets pic after hernia surgery

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dwayne Johnson is home after hernia surgery. The 40-year-old "G.I. Joe: Retaliation" star tweeted a photo of himself in a hospital bed Tuesday. He's flexing his muscles while wearing a Superman shirt and a hospital bonnet. Johnson wrote that the doctor repaired three hernia tears. Johnson's publicist, Alan Nierob, says the actor is now recovering at home. Johnson's latest film, "Pain & Gain," opens Friday. He can also been seen in "Fast & Furious 6" next month.

Alternate jurors selected in Michael Jackson case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Six alternate jurors have been selected for a civil trial over Michael Jackson's death, setting the stage for opening statements next week. The entire panel was sent home after the alternates were chosen on Tuesday. The four men and two women alternates were selected after attorneys for Jackson's mother and concert giant AEG Live questioned them for several hours. On Monday, the jury of six men and six women was chosen. Jackson's mother filed the wrongful death suit against AEG, claiming it was responsible for hiring the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the singer's June 2009 death. The case may last for more than three months. Dozens of people who weren't chosen to hear the case cheered after being dismissed.

NBCUniversal expansion to start with Harry Potter

UNIVERSAL CITY, California (AP)—NBCUniversal plans to begin construction this summer on a $1.6 billion, 25-year expansion of its Los Angeles-area theme park, offices and production facilities. The company owned by Comcast Corp. announced Tuesday that it would start building The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at its Universal Studios Hollywood theme park, along with upgraded TV production studios and office space on the studio lot. The project would eventually include a hotel and retail outlets, adding nearly 2 million square feet (190,000 square meters) to the studio complex. The plan initially called for nearly 3,000 residences, but that was dropped last year after objections from local residents and politicians. The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors tentatively approved the plan Tuesday, unanimously directing its lawyers to prepare documents for final approval.

'Game of Thrones' grows deadlier for the women of HBO's fantasy series

By GINA MCINTYRE
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—The chilly breeze blowing through a restaurant patio sent "Game of Thrones" actress Michelle Fairley reaching for her blazer and her television daughters, Sophie Turner and Maisie Williams, reaching for the ominous tagline that's become so associated with HBO's big-budget fantasy series.

"Winter is coming," chimed the teenagers in their lilting English voices, the trio laughing at the notion that a bracing March wind would attend a reunion of the women of House Stark, even on a seasonably pleasant Los Angeles spring day.

In the world of Westeros, seasons can last for years, making the approach of a bleak and bitter winter a fierce proposition indeed. But even in the sunniest of days, the fantasy realm first created by author George R.R. Martin in his "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels can be an unforgiving place where acts of principle are most typically rewarded with betrayal.

"Honor doesn't get you that far," Fairley acknowledged between sips of tea.

The show's third season, now on its fourth episode, finds Fairley's matriarch, Catelyn Stark, still fearful for the welfare of her girls, the long-suffering Sansa (Turner) and the rough-and-tumble Arya (Williams), both of whom are very much in jeopardy.

Watching a sprawling cast of characters play that game has become something akin to an obsession for those hooked on "Game of Thrones." The series' unique blend of diabolical dealings and underhanded intrigue, not to mention explicit nudity, graphic violence and supernatural underpinnings, has seduced a mainstream audience—a feat rare for such an elaborate work of fantasy.

Heading into this year's 10 episodes, show runners David Benioff and D.B. Weiss have promised a number of "reversals of fortune" for the players jockeying to survive in a land torn apart by a war for control over the Iron Throne.

LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT
Sophie Turner, Michelle Fairley and Maisie Williams (left to right) are three of the stars of HBO's fantasy series "Game of Thrones," where Fairley plays the mother of the two girls.

If the best acting requires concealing more than you reveal, then "Game of Thrones" consistently demands the best from its actors. Rarely do any of the characters communicate honestly with one another; almost every exchange involves deception of some kind.

For a veteran such as Fairley—who has an extensive theater background and has appeared on television and in films including a turn as Hermione Granger's mother in "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1"—that presents an intriguing creative challenge.

"It's about showing what you want to show but holding a lot back," she said. "They're very skilled poker players. It's the voice, it's the words, but internally something else is going on that's completely different."

The precision of the scripts themselves proves instructive, Fairley said, almost as though Benioff and Fairley are directing the performers on the page.

"The words are there for a specific reason," she said. "You can never change them. If you say them incorrectly, the continuity lady will come over and say, 'David says, "Say it like this," or Dan says, "Say it like this."'"

Neither Turner, 17, nor Williams, 15, had much in the way of professional experience on screen before being cast on the series, although both studied dance and were interested in performance. At one point, Turner was accepted to London's Royal Ballet School but chose to pursue acting instead; Williams landed an agent at a dance showcase who encouraged her to audition for the show.

"I think they did it very tactically, David and Dan, bringing in people that hadn't really done anything like this before," Turner said. "Because we're so young and this is really kind of an emotionally testing series ... we could connect to our characters going through the same thing. We'd never done anything like it, neither had Sansa and Arya."

Although the girls are close friends off screen, they rarely have the opportunity to act together or with Fairley for that matter. Circumstances have separated Sansa and Arya from each other and from Catelyn for well more than a season, though the actresses said they find ways to spend time with one another on the series' Belfast, Northern Ireland, set. (The show also travels to exotic locales in Iceland and Croatia.)

Turner and Fairley have read the first three of Martin's novels, but Williams has decided to wait until her time as Arya is over before she sits down to the saga: "At the moment, the scripts are complicated enough," she said.

As to what exactly happens in those scripts, Fairley, Turner and Williams won't say. They, like every member of the "Game of Thrones" cast, have been well schooled to keep mum about what adventures their characters undertake this season, with an eye toward preserving the show's many secrets in the age of Internet spoilers.

After all, secrets are perhaps the most prized currency in the series' cutthroat world.

"Maybe in the future Sansa will do a crazy ninja Arya move," Turner offered.

"And maybe I'll get to wear a dress!" Williams exclaimed. "Look like a girl maybe? It would be nice to look nice on camera."

Fairley turned to her young costar and offered an expression of maternal support. "You look beautiful on camera," she said with a warm smile.

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$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

Friday, Apr. 19th through Thu Apr. 25th, 2013

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NOW SHOWING

Oblivion

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday through Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Tom Cruise, Olga Kurylenko, Morgan Freeman
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

Scary Movie 5

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday through Thursday		4:10	7:10	

Cast: Charlie Sheen, Lindsay Lohan, Ashley Tisdale
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Call

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday through Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Cast: Halle Berry, Evie Thompson, Abigail Breslin
Genre: Comedy • Rated R

Jurassic Park 3D

Friday		4:00	7:00	10:00
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	10:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday through Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Sam Neill, Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum
Genre: Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Sunday	1:25	7:25	
Monday through Thursday		7:25	

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Bruce Willis, Channing Tatum
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 2D

Friday through Thursday 4:25

The Croods 3D

Friday		7:15	
Saturday	1:15	7:15	
Sunday	1:15	7:15	
Monday through Thursday		7:15	

Cast: Emma Stone, Nicolas Cage, Ryan Reynolds
Genre: Children's/Family • Rated PG

The Croods 2D

Friday & Saturday	4:15	9:30
Sunday through Thursday	4:15	

Olympus Has Fallen

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:55
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:55
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday through Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Gerard Butler, Morgan Freeman, Aaron Eckhart
Genre: Action • Rated R

● No passes ■ No passes or Supersavers

Tickets and showtimes
REGmovies.com
Available on the App Store

Germany: Bieber's monkey going nowhere

BERLIN (AP)—German customs authorities said Tuesday that Justin Bieber's monkey is going nowhere for now even though the singer has apparently asked that it be removed from an animal shelter where it is staying and be placed in a zoo.

Mally, a 17-week-old capuchin monkey, was seized by customs authorities March 28 when Bieber failed to produce the required papers after landing in Munich while on tour.

Judith Brettmeister, spokeswoman for the Munich Animal Protection League shelter, where Mally has been kept since then, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that her office has since received two emails from a representative saying he was with Bieber's management company.

Brettmeister said she could not confirm that the emails were really from the management company, "though they appear to be." Bieber's representative did not immediately respond to an email requesting confirmation.

Brettmeister said the first email asked how long Bieber had to provide the paperwork before the monkey would be euthanized. The Animal Protection League replied that animals aren't euthanized in German shelters.

AP

Capuchin monkey 'Mally" sits on the head of an employee in an animal shelter in Munich, Germany, Tuesday, April 2, 2013.

Then, in a second email seen by the AP, the shelter is thanked for its help and told: "Our team is looking into the idea of placing Mally at a zoo in Germany. Would you happen to have any recommendations for places that Mally would be safe and thrive?"

It continues: "Again, we are very concerned that Mally is safe and placed in the best possible residence."

But customs spokesman Thomas Meister said that Mally will stay in the shelter until Bieber or someone with his power of attorney gets in touch with them directly.

Bieber has until May 17 to provide Mally's paperwork, Meister said.

"If by May 17 there is nothing, then he loses ownership of the animal and it becomes the property of the Federal Republic of Germany," he said.

If Bieber really does want to place the animal in a zoo, he is welcome to contact customs authorities and forfeit Mally at any time, but will likely have to pay costs associated with keeping the monkey so far and a fine, Meister said.

Stephen King gives to state gun control coalition

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Author Stephen King and his wife have made a donation to a Maine group advocating for stricter gun control laws.

King says the gift was "five figures" but doesn't want to say more about it because "charity's supposed to be a private thing."

The Coalition for a Safer Maine says King is a gun owner and a defender of the constitutional right to bear arms who supports expanded background checks on gun sales and a ban on the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines. It says the "substantial contribution" from the "Salem's Lot" author and fellow author Tabitha King will help fund its advocacy efforts.

The Maine Legislature this week is considering several gun control bills.

After the deadly Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school shooting in December, Stephen King wrote a best-selling e-book called "Guns," discussing his thoughts on gun control.

Police: Madonna's brother resists arrest, is hurt

TRAVERSE CITY, Michigan (AP)—Authorities say the brother of pop star Madonna needed nine stiches to his forehead after he resisted arrest in a public bathroom in northern Michigan.

The Traverse City Record-Eagle reports that police were called Sunday night when 56-year-old Anthony Ciccone refused to leave the bathroom at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center.

Police say an officer tried to arrest Ciccone on an outstanding warrant for trespass. He confronted the officer, who brought him to the ground. Ciccone's face hit the floor and he required stitches.

Police say Ciccone's blood-alcohol level was 0.40. The legal limit for driving is 0.08.

No attorney is listed for Ciccone, who was arraigned on the warrant and jailed.

Madonna's publicist, Liz Rosenberg, declined to comment. Madonna is a Michigan native.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending April 22, 2013:

TOP SONGS

1. "Just Give Me a Reason (feat. Nate Ruess)," P!nk
2. "Can't Hold Us (feat. Ray Dalton)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
3. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
4. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
5. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
6. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
7. "I Love It (feat. Charli XCX)," Icona Pop
8. "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons
9. "Get Lucky (Radio Edit) (feat. Pharrell Williams)," Daft Punk
10. "Come & Get It," Selena Gomez

TOP ALBUMS

1. "Indicud," Kid Cudi
2. "Save Rock and Roll," Fall Out Boy
3. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
4. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
5. "Heroes for Sale," Andy Mineo
6. "Random Access Memories," Daft Punk
7. "Live In Concert - EP," Wiz Khalifa,Curren$y
8. "Night Visions," Imagine Dragons
9. "Based On a True Story." Blake Shelton
10. "Paramore," Paramore

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending April 22, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Cut the Rope: Time Travel (ZeptoLab UK Limited)
3. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run (Nickelodeon)
4. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
5. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
6. Fish Out Of Water! (Halfbrick Studios)
7. Block Fortress (Foursaken Media)
8. Kick the Buddy: No Mercy (Crustalli)
9. Sleep Cycle alarm clock (Maciek Drejak Labs)
10. AfterLight (Simon Filip)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. Draw Rider (Anton Vazhinsky)
2. Vine (Vine Labs, Inc.)
3. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
4. CNN App for iPhone (CNN Interactive Group, Inc.)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Dentist Office (Ninjafish Studios)
7. Snapchat (Snapchat, Inc.)
8. Sonic Dash (SEGA)
9. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
10. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS

1. Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Rooftop Run (Nickelodeon)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Cut the Rope: Time Travel HD (ZeptoLab UK Limited)
4. Fish Out Of Water! (Halfbrick Studios)
5. Temple Run: Oz (Disney)
6. Block Fortress (Foursaken Media)
7. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
8. Mr. Crab (Illusion Labs)
9. Pages (Apple)
10. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
2. Dentist Office (Ninjafish Studios)
3. Draw Rider (Anton Vazhinsky)
4. Take It Easy (Ravensburger Digital GmbH)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Wedding Day Makeover, Ninjafish Studios)
7. Fruit Ninja (Halfbrick Studios)
8. Injustice: Gods Among Us (Warner Bros.)
9. CNN App for iPad (CNN Interactive Group, Inc.)
10. Talking Larry the Bird for iPad (Out Fit 7 Ltd.)

'Vanilla Ice Goes Amish' to debut on DIY

NEW YORK (AP)—The DIY television network is proving a comfortable home for rappers turned renovators.

"Vanilla Ice Goes Amish" will debut on the network this year. Network executive Burton Jablin says the former rap star will live with an Amish community in Ohio to learn how they do construction. Vanilla Ice already has a renovation series on the network that will return for its fourth season this fall.

Reverend Run of Run DMC will have a series next year starring with his wife and three children as they renovate their home.

Keeping with the music theme, DIY will also feature Daryl Hall next year as he renovates a farmhouse in Connecticut.

AP

This image released by DIY Network shows 90s recording artist Vanilla Ice, born Robert Van Winkle, is shown in the new series "Vanilla Ice Goes Amish," where Van Winkle learns from craftsmen.

Harrell

3 Doors Down bassist out of jail on bond

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—The bassist for rock band 3 Doors Down is out of jail after being charged in a fatal interstate crash in Nashville.

Police said 41-year-old Todd Harrell was driving under the influence and speeding Friday night when his car clipped a pickup truck that lost control and flipped, killing the driver.

Police said Harrell acknowledged drinking and taking the prescription drugs Lortab and Xanax.

He is also accused of bringing Xanax, oxycodone and oxymorphone pills into the jail concealed in his sock.

Harrell was released on $100,000 bond Tuesday afternoon. He has a court appearance on Thursday. Charges include vehicular homicide by intoxication.

An attorney for Harrell did not immediately respond to a message left at his office.

On Monday, the band canceled its U.S. appearances for April and May.

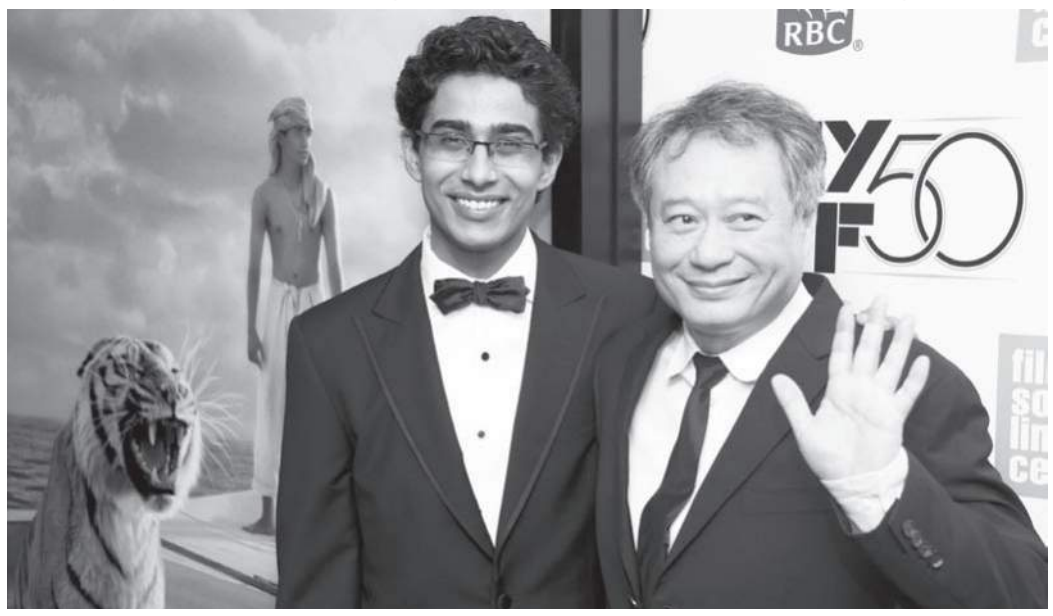
Life of Pi star says blessing to work with Ang Lee

NEW DELHI (AP)—"Life of Pi" actor Suraj Sharma credits director Ang Lee with setting him on a path to continue with a career in movies.

Sharma told The Times of India in an interview published Tuesday that getting to work with the Oscar-winning director on "Life of Pi" was a blessing.

"The amount I learned and did was awesome. Ang gave me a path. Before that, I didn't even know what I would do in life," he was quoted as saying. After making the movie, "I know I want to tell stories," he said.

"I don't know whether I just want to act or be behind the camera, holding the camera or just being the boom director. But I want to be on the sets. It has to be something to do with cinema," he said.



AP

This Sept. 28, 2012 file photo shows director Ang Lee, right, and actor Suraj Sharma at the premiere of "Life of Pi" at the 50th annual New York Film Festival in New York.

Sharma, 20, said his next Hollywood film will be "Million Dollar Arm." The film revolves around a real-life reality show that searched for potential Major League Baseball pitchers among Indian cricketers.

Captioner sorry for calling Deschanel bomb suspect

NEW YORK (AP)—A TV captioning service has apologized for misidentifying "New Girl" star Zooey Deschanel as one of the Boston Marathon bombing suspects on a Texas news broadcast.

Caption Solutions says it and its captioner "deeply regret" the mistake. Company president Kala J. Patterson says in a statement issued Tuesday they "sincerely apologize for this error."

The erroneous onscreen text appeared during coverage by the Fox network affiliate KDFW in Dallas-Fort Worth of Friday's manhunt for a bombing suspect. It declared: "Marathon Bomber. He is 19-year-old Zooey Deschanel."

Sharon Osbourne says she's not divorcing Ozzy

NEW YORK (AP)—Sharon Osbourne says she and husband Ozzy aren't splitting.

Osbourne addressed recent rumors of their family problems on Tuesday's edition of "The Talk," the CBS chat show she co-hosts.

She told viewers she had not been aware of her husband's year-and-a-half-long relapse into prescription drug and alcohol abuse, which he made public in an apologetic Facebook post last week.

She says she is "devastated" by their struggles, but she added that the couple has dealt with worse before.

The TV personality and music manager blinked back tears as she said, "This, too, shall pass."

Ozzy Osbourne was a founding member of heavy-metal pioneers Black Sabbath, but he left the group in 1979. The 64-year-old has since rejoined, and the band's new studio album is out in June.

AP

This is a Tuesday, Sept. 25, 2007 file photo of Sharon and Ozzy Osbourne as they arrive at the Elton John AIDS Foundation's sixth annual benefit "An Enduring Vision" at The Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, in New York.

Stranger's encouraging words inspire woman toward her goal

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I was moved by the letter from "Losing Slowly in Ohio" (Jan. 14), who is 50 pounds overweight and walks every day with her friend to lose weight. She said that almost daily people made fun of them. My heart goes out to her.

I was in her shoes once. With diet and exercise I lost more than 60 pounds, and I've kept it off. But I was never ridiculed as she was. On the contrary, one day after I had just begun a daily 1-mile jog and was struggling to keep going, I passed by a man who cheerfully called out to me to "keep at it, and one day you'll be a 10!"

Abby, I can't tell you what that meant to me. I thought about his encouragement whenever I felt hopeless and was thinking of giving up. The memory of his kind words inspired me to go on. Thirty years later, I still think about his encouragement with amazement and gratitude.

We all have a choice: We can be kind to each other and offer friends and strangers alike support for the challenges we all face, or we can make ourselves feel superior by being cruel and demeaning. In the end, our choice shapes our character and we receive what we give, so we must choose wisely.

I'm sorry that "Losing" has met with only ignorant jerks so far. I would be honored to pay it forward and tell her how incredibly brave she is, and to encourage her to stick with it. Because she has the courage to keep exercising in the face of constant humiliation, I know without a doubt that she will reach her goals.

WENDY IN COLORADO

DEAR WENDY: Thank you for your upbeat response. Many other readers were quick to "weigh in" with letters of support for "Losing Slowly":

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I, too, have a weight problem, which I am working to resolve. But I can tell you from experience that the worst kind of discrimination is directed against people with weight problems. I have been insulted in the workplace, in restaurants and doctor's offices. I have not been hired for jobs because I am perceived as fat and lazy.

I am NOT lazy! I keep a clean house, work hard at my job as a secretary every day, and I am a good wife and parent. We may ignore it and pretend that it doesn't hurt us or matter, but I can tell you it IS painful, demeaning, and it doesn't go away. I have been in meetings or at social functions and have had to excuse myself to have a good cry.

STILL SUFFERING IN KENTUCKY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Please let "Losing Slowly" know she has another option to continue her new, healthy lifestyle in a safe environment. I have worked in malls for years, and they have all had a mall walkers' club.

The mall allows people in to walk, including many seniors, before it opens in the morning. There she will have access to a place where everyone is on the same page. The walkers are safe from traffic, the climate, and morons who have the manners of a junkyard dog. The regulars there can tell her how many miles they can cover. It's a great society of people who support and root for each other.

NEVER GIVING UP IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I would suggest the two ladies create T-shirts that read "At Least We're Trying!" and watch the jeers turn into cheers.

CAROL IN WISCONSIN

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I applaud her effort and your response, but may I raise the issue of people like myself who are ridiculed about being too THIN? Strangers say things like "Eat something, or the wind will blow you away!" Please remind your readers that making fun of very thin people is just as hurtful as doing it to overweight individuals.

WISP OF A WOMAN IN THE WEST

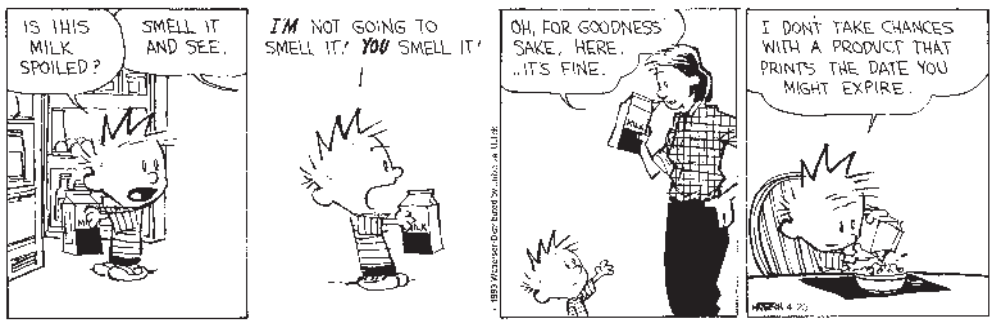
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

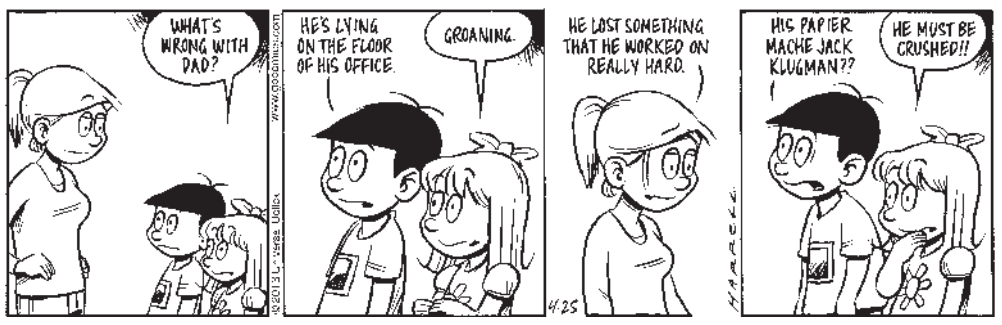

IS THIS MILK SPOILED?
SMELL IT AND SEE.
I'M NOT GOING TO SMELL IT! YOU SMELL IT!
OH, FOR GOODNESS SAKE, HERE, ..IT'S FINE.
I DON'T TAKE CHANCES WITH A PRODUCT THAT PRINTS THE DATE YOU MIGHT EXPIRE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S WRONG WITH DAD?
HE'S LYING ON THE FLOOR OF HIS OFFICE
GROANING.
HE LOST SOMETHING THAT HE WORKED ON REALLY HARD.
HIS PAPIER MACHE JACK KLUGMAN??
HE MUST BE CRUSHED!!
4-25

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT TO ONE DAY GET A STANDING OVATION?
HECK, I'VE HAD LOTS OF STANDING O'S.
WHEN?
WELL, THERE WAS THE TIME I TRIPPED IN MY HIGH SCHOOL'S CAFETERIA AND SPILLED MY FOOD TRAY ALL OVER THE FLOOR.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

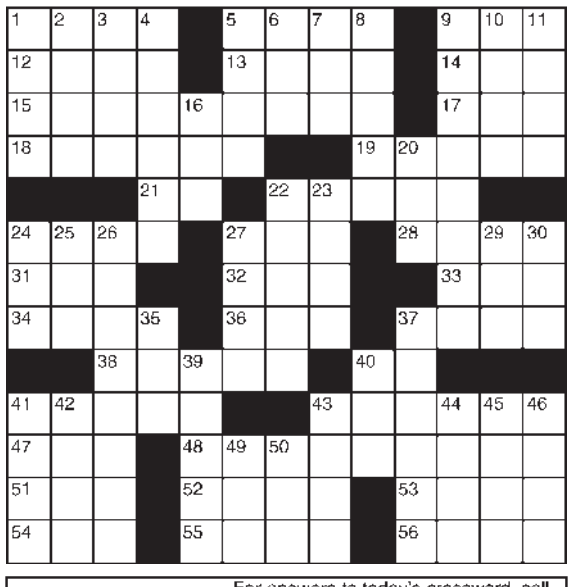
ACROSS
1 Zinger
5 Nuisance
9 Oprah's network
12 Chills and fever
13 Viscous
14 Dove's call
15 Short musical works
17 "Hail, Caesar!"
18 Yule quaff
19 Fairy tale villains
21 Chic
22 Island porch
24 Formerly
27 Evergreen type
28 Break suddenly
31 Tasseled topper
32 Lobe locale
33 Gorilla
34 Dread
36 Attempt
37 Car sticker no.
38 Batman's pal
40 Proceed
41 Dishes
43 Commercial song
47 Scoot
48 Varieties of wheat
51 Carte lead-in
52 Handle
53 Point
54 Clear the tables
55 Stitches
56 Wan

DOWN
1 Foundation
2 Enthusiastic
3 Ladder step
4 Cap with a propeller
5 Bluenose
6 A billion years
7 Hot tub
8 Mike of the ring
9 Simple wind instruments
10 Used a loom
11 Vetoers' votes
16 Heavy weight
20 Petrol
22 Memorize
23 Distorted
24 Vacationing
25 Born
26 Ivan's and Peter's wives
27 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spring mo.
30 Vigor
35 Director Howard
37 "Friends" role
39 Soaks up some rays
40 Hodges of baseball lore
41 Seafood entree
42 Streaming video giant
43 Apple cofounder
44 Wildebeests
45 Whip
46 Catch sight of
49 Away from WSW
50 Do some lawn work

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	I	L	D	■	H	A	S	■	S	P	A	T
O	R	E	O	■	U	L	T	■	T	R	I	O
L	O	N	G	O	R	I	A	■	H	E	D	S
E	N	D	E	A	R	■	C	R	A	T	E	S
■	■	■	S	T	Y	■	K	A	Y	O	■	■
O	P	S	■	H	U	G	■	M	E	R	G	E
U	S	E	R	■	P	E	A	■	D	I	O	N
T	I	N	E	A	■	T	U	T	■	A	D	D
■	■	■	S	F	N	D	■	T	F	A	■	■
B	R	O	N	T	E	■	O	C	T	A	V	E
Y	U	R	T	■	E	U	P	H	O	R	I	A
E	M	I	R	■	M	R	S	■	L	E	E	R
S	P	A	Y	■	S	L	Y	■	L	A	S	S

Yesterday's answer 4-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Lee, 43; Renee Zellweger, 44; Hank Azaria, 49; Al Pacino, 73

Happy Birthday: Communication will be your greatest asset. Follow through with plans and show your expertise, experience and responsible way of handling situations in both your personal and professional dealings. This is a make-it-or-break-it time in your life, and handling whatever you face head-on will help you reach the destination that suits you best. Your numbers are 4, 10, 23, 26, 33, 35, 41.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Refrain from anger even if someone pressures you. Take a step back and get a clear picture regarding your next move. Make choices based on your needs, not what someone else wants. Offer suggestions, not your time or money. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Show everyone how talented you are. Discuss your plans and engage in events that will add to your knowledge. The experience you gain will back up what you have been displaying all along. Love is highlighted and a celebration should be planned. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Keep your personal life a secret. Focus on money, contracts and negotiations. Dealing with institutions can bring good results as long as you are receptive and willing to compromise. Offer suggestions but don't appear to be pushy. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): The spotlight is on you. Take care of business and offer to help others. Say little and do a lot and you will impress someone who has something to offer you in return. A partnership can change your life personally or professionally. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Tread carefully when dealing with peers, colleagues or family members. Don't take on someone else's chores without getting something in return. You are likely to be taken for granted if you aren't careful. Think positively and make changes that improve your life. ✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Embrace change. You will have the charm and the expertise to succeed. Love and romance are in the stars, and travel or taking time out to be with someone you love will put a positive spin on your day. Live, love and laugh. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put greater emphasis on money and how you handle your personal finances. An opportunity to save or invest as well as stabilize your future should be taken. You may be forced to alter the way you live. Check out your options. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You have discipline, strength and courage. Be creative in the way you approach partnerships and you will encourage the people around you to adopt your methods. A personal relationship should be altered to suit your current situation. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Share your ideas and you will get the support your need to forge ahead. Partnerships will bring you greater opportunities as long as you lay down ground rules that delegate chores evenly. Offering help can turn into a paid position. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make home improvements that please the ones you love. Explore what you can do in order to earn more money or find a way to turn a skill or talent you have into extra cash. Actions speak louder than words. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Take it easy while traveling or dealing with people in your community with the potential to influence your future. Be prepared to deal with questions and opposition. Stick close to home and enjoy expanding your ideas and plans. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Let your imagination wander. You'll come up with remarkable ideas that can lead to a better income and long-term contracts. Budget wisely when it comes to personal items and needs. Save for something that can alter your life. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, quick to react and determined to get your way.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	5	4	3			
		2					1	
9	3			7				
4								9
3		1				8		2
7								6
				9			7	3
	6					2		
			1	3	6	4		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	5	9	7	3	2	8	6
3	9	6	1	2	8	5	4	7
8	2	7	4	5	6	3	1	9
7	5	8	2	4	9	6	3	1
2	6	9	3	1	7	4	5	8
1	4	3	8	6	5	9	7	2
9	8	4	6	3	1	7	2	5
5	3	1	7	9	2	8	6	4
6	7	2	5	8	4	1	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/24

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REUNIONS **Solution: 6 letters**

O	G	T	Y	A	L	P	S	A	R	S	G	U	H	H
U	R	O	T	B	I	R	T	H	D	A	Y	S	O	S
T	A	G	R	R	I	T	N	C	P	Ⓜ	L	T	S	N
D	D	E	A	E	E	N	E	A	L	I	Ⓔ	L	T	I
O	U	T	P	N	T	C	V	A	V	L	C	Ⓔ	Y	S
O	A	H	D	A	I	R	E	I	R	Y	A	N	Ⓣ	U
R	T	E	A	M	Y	Z	E	P	T	S	M	C	I	O
S	I	R	N	E	L	D	A	A	T	A	M	R	E	C
D	O	Y	C	T	I	R	H	T	T	I	T	A	A	R
N	N	R	I	A	M	A	S	O	I	H	O	I	L	L
E	D	O	N	G	A	M	E	S	E	O	E	N	O	L
I	I	M	G	S	F	A	O	M	A	M	N	V	D	N
R	N	E	T	I	N	U	E	R	I	L	E	S	A	U
F	E	M	D	R	E	S	S	T	E	K	C	I	T	F
T	R	O	S	E	R	E	M	I	N	I	S	C	E	L

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Army, Attend, Birthday, Class, Cousins, Dancing, Date, Diner, Drama, Dress, Events, Family, Friends, Fun, Games, Graduation, Host, Hotel, Hugs, Invitation, Love, Meet, Memory, Nametags, Navy, Organizations, Outdoors, Party, Picnic, Play, Rally, Recall, Reception, Reminisce, Resort, Retreat, Reunite, Small, Tears, Themes, Tickets, Time, Together

Yesterday's Answer: Graduation

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 ... Washington ... letter ... the ... names ... Hall-Hammer ... together ... plus ... postage ... Universal ... Atlanta ... Kansas City ... Andrews ... toll-free ... quarters ... Future ... Puzzles ... Orlando ... Connect

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Curry leads Warriors past Nuggets, 131-117

DENVER (AP)—Stephen Curry had 30 points and 13 assists and the Golden State Warriors handed the Denver Nuggets their first loss at home in more than three months, a 131-117 stunner Tuesday night that evened their playoff series at a game each.

Jarrett Jack added 26 points, Harrison Barnes 24 and Klay Thompson 21 as the sixth-seeded Warriors wrested homecourt advantage from the NBA's best home team as the series shifts to Oakland for Game 3 Friday night.

The third-seeded Nuggets were an NBA-best 38-3 at home during the regular season but needed Andre Miller's last-second shot to beat Golden State by a basket in the opener and extend their franchise-best winning streak to 24 games.

The Warriors became the second road team to win the postseason following Chicago's win at Brooklyn on Monday.

With Golden State losing All-Star power forward David Lee to a torn hip flexor and the Nuggets getting top rebounder and energizer Kenneth Faried back from a sprained ankle, this one looked like a mismatch.

And it was, only not the way the Pepsi Center crowd anticipated.

Even without their All-Star, the Warriors outrebounded the Nuggets 36-26 and shot a sizzling 64.6 percent.

The best anybody shot against Denver during the season was 54 percent, by the Los Angeles Lakers way back on Nov. 20, and the most points the Nuggets had allowed was 126 at San Antonio on Nov. 17.

Ty Lawson and Corey Brewer each scored 19 points for Denver and Andre Iguodala and Miller both had 18.

Lee led the league in double-doubles with 56 and had another before getting hurt in the fourth quarter of the series opener on Saturday. He was averaging 18.5 points, 11.2 rebounds and 3.5 assists.

"We can't replace him," Warriors coach Mark Jackson declared after the MRI confirmed fears of a serious injury. "He's an All-Star power forward who's had an incredible year. But we have some guys on our bench that can do some things to cover up his absence."

Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, tries to drive past Denver Nuggets guard Wilson Chandler, right, in the second quarter of Game 1 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs on Saturday, April 20, 2013, in Denver.

AP

The Warriors were 3-18 without Lee over the last three seasons, but Jackson mixed and matched his lineup to make up for his All-Star's absence on this night, when Lee cheered on his teammates from the bench.

The Nuggets were hoping the return of Faried would help them reverse their 10-point disadvantage on the boards in Game 1. But he was rusty and the same problems that plagued Denver in the opener—missing too many open shots, getting outmuscled on the glass and giving up open 3s—haunted them once again.

Curry scored 15 points in the second quarter and hit four jumpers during a 14-5 run the Warriors used to grab control and take the air out of the Pepsi Center as they cruised into halftime with a 61-53 lead that would never be threatened in the second half.

Curry swished another sweet jumper to start the third quarter and the Warriors opened up a 17-point lead they would stretch to 20 in the fourth quarter.

The Nuggets pulled to 76-69, but Thompson hit a 3-pointer from the right corner and Curry a 3 from the left to make it 82-69. Both were wide open as Denver's defenders were again running ragged trying to keep up with the Warriors, who handled the altitude just fine.

Every time the Nuggets made a run, the Warriors had an answer, whether it was Curry's jump shots or reverse dunks by Barnes.

Denver got its deficit down to 115-105 but this time it was Jack's turn to make a wide-open 3 with the Nuggets defenders scrambling around.

Faried finished with four points and two rebounds in 21 minutes.

The arena was half-empty by the time the horn sounded, a solitary fan yelling derisively, "Tacos!" when Evan Fournier's free throw fell through the hoop to give the Nuggets 110 points, the magic number for a promotion in which fans get discounted tacos.

Knicks 87, Celtics 71

In New York, Carmelo Anthony scored 34 points, Sixth Man of the Year J.R. Smith added 19 as New York opened a 2-0 lead over Boston with an 87-71 victory Tuesday.

Raymond Felton added 16 points for the Knicks, who used a 27-4 run spanning halftime to blow it open and move halfway to their first series victory since the 2000 Eastern Conference semifinals. This is their first 2-0 lead since sweeping Toronto in the first round that year.

Paul Pierce scored 18 points for the Celtics, who will host Game 3 on Friday in their first home game since the Boston Marathon bombings.

Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 11 rebounds, but battled foul trouble for Boston.

Anthony followed his 36-point opener by making 8 of 13 shots in the second half to finish 11 of 24 for the game.

Heat 98, Bucks 86

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 21 points and LeBron James finished with 19 as Miami took off in the fourth quarter to take a 2-0 lead in the first-round series.

Chris Bosh, Shane Battier and Chris Andersen all scored 10 points for the Heat.

Game 3 is Thursday in Milwaukee.

The Heat scored the first 12 points of the fourth quarter, needing just over 2 minutes to blow open what had been a three-point game.

Ersan Ilyasova scored 21 points for Milwaukee, which got 16 from Mike Dunleavy and 14 from Larry Sanders. The Bucks' starting guards, Brandon Jennings and Monta Ellis, combined for only 15 points after scoring 48 in Game 1.

NBA BRIEFS

Bobcats fire coach Mike Dunlap after 1 season

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—Mike Dunlap is one and done with the Charlotte Bobcats. The Bobcats fired Dunlap as coach Tuesday after a single season. The Bobcats went 21-61 under Dunlap, finishing with the second-worst record in the NBA ahead of only the Orlando Magic. Charlotte won just seven games in the lockout-shortened 2011-12 season, but tripling last season's victory total and a three-game winning streak to close the season weren't enough to save Dunlap's job. Bobcats president of basketball operations Rod Higgins said he and general manager Rich Cho met with players and Dunlap before approaching owner Michael Jordan and asking him to make a coaching change. "The change was allowed," Higgins said. Dunlap struggled at times with game management, transitioning from the college game to the NBA and handling professional athletes, often benching veteran players for weeks at a time after they'd irritated him in some way. Higgins said player input was "a part of the process, but not the only indicator."

Source: Cavs, Mike Brown agree to deal

CLEVELAND (AP)—Mike Brown and the Cavaliers are getting back together. Brown, who led the Cavs to the playoffs in all five seasons he coached them from 2005-10, has agreed in principle to a contract to return as their coach for a second time, a person with knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on Tuesday. Brown hasn't yet signed his new deal, but has agreed to take the job, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because negotiations were ongoing. Brown's hiring could be announced as early as Wednesday. The sides are working through the length of the deal and other matters, but Brown's back with the team he guided to its greatest successes. "I'm happy for him," said Miami's LeBron James, who played in Cleveland under Brown. "Very happy for him. I think he's a really good coach, very defensive-minded coach. It'll be good for those young guys that they have." Brown went 272-138 and went to the playoffs every season with the Cavs, teaming with James on a run to the NBA Finals in 2007. He was fired by owner Dan Gilbert after the Cavs lost to Boston in the 2010 Eastern Conference semifinals, shortly before James decided he was leaving Cleveland as a free agent.

Pacers' George wins NBA's Most Improved Award

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Indiana forward Paul George was honored Tuesday as the NBA's Most Improved Player.

The announcement came less than a week after the 6-foot-9 forward finished his breakthrough regular season and less than 48 hours after he became only the second player in franchise history to record a triple double in the NBA playoffs. He had 23 points, 11 rebounds and 12 assists in the Pacers' 107-90 Game 1 win over Atlanta—giving the Pacers their first 1-0 series lead since 2006.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Indy.

George won in a runaway. He received 52 first-place votes and 311 points — more than double the point total for runner-up Greivis Vasquez of New Orleans. Vasquez had 13 first-place votes and 146 points. Milwaukee's Larry Sanders was third with 10 first-place votes and 141 points.

George averaged 17.4 points and 7.6 rebounds this season, both career highs. He averaged 12.1 points and 5.6 rebounds in 2011-12. He's the fourth player in franchise history to win the award, joining Jalen Rose, Jermaine O'Neal and Danny Granger.

It was no fluke.

George has shown steady improvement over each of his first three seasons in the league, going from a part-time starter in 2010-11 to a full-time starter and secondary scoring option in 2011-12. He emerged as the Pacers' top scoring threat and team leader this season after Granger went down with a left knee injury. And he became the Pacers' top defender, too.

Granger missed all but five games. So with the Pacers in desperate need of a replacement, George proved a more than capable fill-in for his friend after spending last summer working out with reigning MVP LeBron James as the U.S. team prepared for the Olympics.

George, who made only 19 of 52 shots in last season's Eastern Conference semifinal loss to James and eventual champion Miami, promised to return a different player. He used his performance in that 4-2 series loss to commit himself to being more aggressive and more reliable, particularly in the playoffs.

Indiana couldn't quibble with the results.

George was selected to his first All-Star game in February, and never let down. He helped Indiana clinch its first Central Division title in nine years and played only 250 fewer minutes during the 2012-13 regular season than he did in the previous two seasons combined.

The only blip came late when George acknowledged he was tired and trying to recover from an abdominal strain.

But after taking three full days off and going a full week between games, the forward returned to form against the Hawks. Despite shooting just 3 of 13 from the field Sunday, he made his first 17 free throws to tie Reggie Miller's postseason mark for best free-throw percentage in a single game, then missed his 18th and final attempt.

George and Mark Jackson are the only Pacers to post triple doubles in an NBA playoff game.

Ichiro hits 2-run single in 9th, Yanks win

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—Ichiro Suzuki hit a go-ahead two-run single in the ninth inning as the New York Yankees beat the Tampa Bay Rays 4-3 Tuesday night.

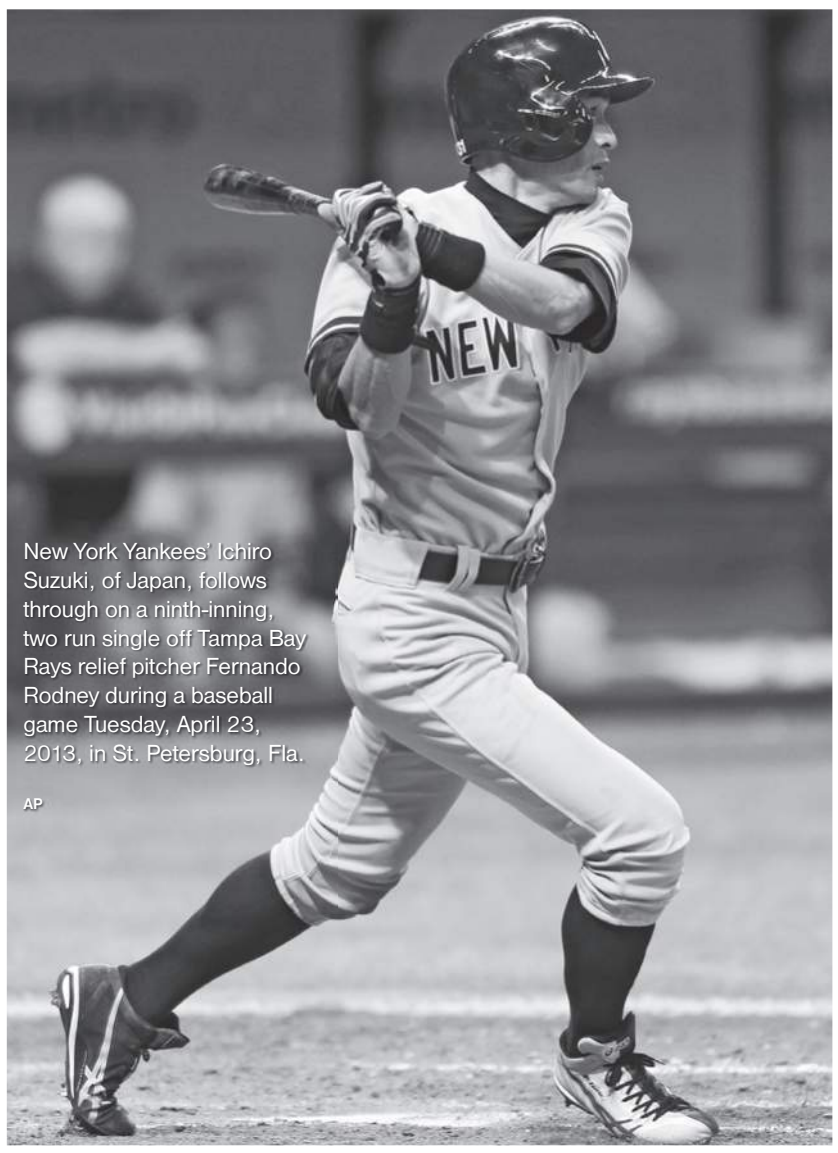
Robinson Cano ended AL Cy Young Award winner David Price's night with a leadoff single in the ninth. Tampa Bay is winless in all five of Price's starts this year. The left-hander (0-2) allowed three runs and eight hits over eight-plus innings.

After Cano stole second on a pitch by Fernando Rodney that struck out Vernon Wells, pinch-hitter Travis Hafner was intentionally walked and Lyle Overbay walked to load the bases.

First baseman James Loney helped Rodney by making a sliding catch on Chris Stewart's foul ball, but Suzuki then drove in two for a 4-2 lead on a liner to center.

David Robertson (1-0) worked a perfect eighth before Mariano Rivera got his sixth save despite allowing Evan Longoria's leadoff homer.

The only other team to lose the first five starts made by a reigning Cy Young winner was the 1989 Minnesota Twins. They lost in Frank Viola's first seven starts before finally winning on May 9.



New York Yankees' Ichiro Suzuki, of Japan, follows through on a ninth-inning, two run single off Tampa Bay Rays relief pitcher Fernando Rodney during a baseball game Tuesday, April 23, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

AP

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 3

In Baltimore, Manny Machado had two hits and two RBIs, and Baltimore used a four-run second inning to beat R.A. Dickey and Toronto.

Miguel Gonzalez (2-1) allowed three runs in six innings for the Orioles, who have won nine of 13. By taking the first two games of the three-game set, Baltimore improved to 5-2 in seven series.

It was the 100th consecutive game the Orioles have won when leading after seven innings, a streak that began in August 2011. Baltimore is 4-3 in one-run games after starting 0-3.

Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer for the last-place Blue Jays, who have dropped six of eight. Dickey (2-3) gave up four runs, six hits and five walks in six innings.

Athletics 13, Red Sox 0, 7 innings

In Boston, Bartolo Colon allowed three hits and Oakland capitalized on eight walks, two balks and two errors to beat Boston in a rain-shortened game.

The A's broke a scoreless tie with six runs in the third when Seth Smith hit a two-run homer, then added two in the fourth, four in the fifth and one in the sixth to snap a four-game skid.

Colon (3-0) pitched all seven innings and had little trouble in the light-to-medium rain that fell throughout the game. He struck out seven and issued his first walk this season in 25 innings to Jacoby Ellsbury leading off the sixth.

Alfredo Aceves (1-1) wallowed seven earned runs in 3 1-3 innings for Boston.

Twins 4, Marlins 3, 1st game
Marlins 8, Twins 5, 2nd game

In Minneapolis, Oswaldo Arcia hit his first career home run and Kevin Correia gave up two runs in seven innings, leading Minnesota over Miami in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

The Marlins' offense finally showed some life in the nightcap with an 8-5 victory.

Arcia's three-run homer in the fourth backed Correia (2-1), who allowed five hits and struck out five in the opener. The Twins shrugged off yet another chilly day to win their fifth straight. Brian Dozier had three hits, and Glen Perkins got his sixth save.

Jose Fernandez (0-2) gave up four runs and six hits for the Marlins, who are off to a franchise-worst 5-16 start after an offseason salary purge. Joe Mahoney had two hits and two RBIs for Miami.

In the second game, Rob Brantly had three hits and a career-high four RBIs for Miami.

Brantly had two doubles and Ricky Nolasco (1-2) allowed two earned runs on six hits in five innings for the Marlins, who won for just the fifth time this season. Miami had a season-high 16 hits, including a double, a single and two RBIs from struggling slugger Giancarlo Stanton. Steve Cishek got his second save.

Joe Mauer had two hits and an RBI, while Mike Pelfrey (2-2) had another rough outing, giving up five runs on nine hits in 4 2-3 innings as the Twins lost for the first time in six games.

Braves 4, Rockies 3

In Denver, starting a day-night doubleheader, Justin Upton hit his major league-leading 10th home run, Dan Uggla and rookie Evan Gattis also connected and the Braves beat the Colorado Rockies.

Reed Johnson, playing right field for Atlanta because Jason Heyward underwent an appendectomy Monday night, went 4 for 4 with three doubles. Heyward was put on the 15-day disabled list.

Colorado and Atlanta each began the day 13-5, tied for the best record in the majors.

It was the coldest game-time temperature in the majors since such data collection began in 1991, according to STATS. The Rockies said the previous low at Coors Field was 28 degrees.

Pitching in short sleeves while many other players bundled up, Mike Minor (3-1) allowed three runs and five hits in six innings. By the time Craig Kimbrel closed it out for his eighth save in eight chances, the temperature had warmed up to 27.

Gattis hit a tiebreaking homer in the fourth and ended the game by throwing out Wilin Rosario trying to steal second.

Cardinals 2, Nationals 0

In Washington, Adam Wainwright extended his sterling start to the season—and Washington's mediocre one—by coming within two outs of his second shutout for St. Louis.

Wainwright (4-1) lowered his ERA to 1.93 by allowing five hits in 8 1-3 innings. Edward Mujica got two outs for his third save.

Allen Craig and Carlos Beltran drove in runs in the fourth off Ross Detwiler (1-1), who gave up eight hits across six innings.

The Nationals, who led the majors with 98 wins last season and were a popular pick to do well in 2013, lost for the eighth time in their past 11 games to fall to 10-10.

Cubs 4, Reds 2, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Carlos Marmol blew a lead in the ninth inning before Darwin Barney bailed him out with a homer in the 10th that lifted Chicago over Cincinnati.

Chicago ended its four-game losing streak after squandering a late lead for the second straight day. The Cubs let a two-run lead get away in the 13th inning of a 5-4 loss Monday night.

Barney connected off left-hander Manny Parra (0-1), and Dave Sappelt added an RBI single.

Marmol (2-1), who lost the closer's job after a rough opening week, came on with a runner on second and one out in the ninth to face Joey Votto, who was 1 for 15 in his career against the reliever with nine strikeouts. Votto singled up the middle to tie it. Marmol escaped a bases-loaded threat to keep it tied. Kevin Gregg fanned Votto with two aboard in the 10th to get his first save.

Pirates 2, Phillies 0

In Philadelphia, Jeff Locke pitched six innings of two-hit ball and Gaby Sanchez homered off Cole Hamels to lead Pittsburgh over Philadelphia.

Locke (2-1) struck out six and walked two. After wriggling out of a jam in the fourth, he retired his last eight batters—striking out three of the final four.

Sanchez also doubled and Brandon Inge had an RBI double in his Pirates debut to help Pittsburgh win for the fifth time in seven games.

After opening the season with a pair of poor outings, Hamels (0-3) pitched well for the third straight start but was hurt by a lack of run support again. The Phillies were shut out for the third time this season.

Dodgers 7, Mets 2

In New York, Mark Ellis lined two home runs and hit a hard grounder that sent Mets starter Jonathon Niese limping off for X-rays, leading Los Angeles over New York.

Ellis got four hits and drove in four runs. He hit his 100th career homer in the fifth inning, then connected for a tiebreaking, three-run shot with two outs in the seventh.

Los Angeles won despite an uneven outing by ace Clayton Kershaw. With Dodgers great Sandy Koufax watching at Citi Field, Kershaw walked four and struck out five in five innings.

Justice says Armstrong was 'unjustly enriched'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—The Justice Department laid out its case in a lawsuit against Lance Armstrong on Tuesday, saying the cyclist violated his contract with the U.S. Postal Service and was "unjustly enriched" while cheating to win the Tour de France.

The government had previously announced it would join the whistleblower lawsuit brought by former Armstrong teammate Floyd Landis under the federal False Claims Act. Tuesday was the deadline for the Justice Department to file its formal complaint.

The Postal Service paid about $40 million to be the title sponsor of Armstrong's teams for six of his seven Tour de France victories. The filing in U.S. district court in Washington, D.C., says the USPS paid Armstrong $17 million from 1998 to 2004.

The lawsuit also names former team Armstrong team director Johan Bruyneel and team management company Tailwind Sports as defendants.

The financial costs for Armstrong and Bruyneel could be high. The government said it would seek triple damages assessed by the jury.

"Defendants were unjustly enriched to the extent of the payments and other benefits they received from the USPS, either directly or indirectly," the complaint said.

Armstrong, who in January admitted using performance-enhancing drugs after years of denials, has argued that the Postal Service's endorsement of his team earned the government agency far more than it paid him.

Armstrong attorney Elliot Peters called the government's complaint "opportunistic" and "insincere."

"The U.S. Postal Service benefited tremendously from its sponsorship of the cycling team. Its own studies repeatedly and conclusively prove this," Peters said. "The USPS was never the victim of fraud. Lance Armstrong rode his heart out for the USPS team, and gave the brand tremendous exposure during the sponsorship years."

The government must prove not only that the Postal Service was defrauded, but that it was damaged somehow.

Previous studies done for the Postal Service concluded the agency reaped at least $139 million in worldwide brand exposure in four years—$35 million to $40 million for sponsoring the Armstrong team in 2001; $38 million to $42 million in 2002; $31 million in 2003; and $34.6 million in 2004.

Landis attorney Paul Scott dismissed the idea that profits to the Postal Service negate the claims of fraud because the agency is forever tainted.

"Even if the USPS received some ephemeral media exposure in connection with Mr. Armstrong's false victories, any illusory benefit from those times will be swamped over time immemorial by the USPS forever being tied to the largest doping scandal in the history of sports," Scott said.

The formal complaint against Armstrong appears to rely heavily on evidence and statements supplied by Landis and gathered by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency for its 2012 investigation that exposed a doping program on the USPS team. Armstrong has been banned from sports for life and stripped of his seven Tour de France victories.

Bruyneel, who lives in London, also has been charged by USADA with doping violations but is fighting that case in arbitration.

The government notes the contract with the Postal Service required riders to follow the rules of cycling, which included bans on performance-enhancing drugs and methods. Armstrong now admits using steroids, blood boosters and other illegal performance-enhancing drugs and measures to win.

By breaking the rules and covering it up, Armstrong and Bruyneel committed fraud against the U.S. government, the complaint said.

The complaint said that for years, team officials assured the Postal Service that the team wasn't doping.

Armstrong had been the target of a federal criminal grand jury, but that case was closed without charges in February 2012. Armstrong has previously tried to settle the Landis whistleblower lawsuit, but those talks broke down before the government announced its intention to join the case.

Armstrong also is fighting a lawsuit from Dallas-based promotions company SCA to recover about $12 million it paid him in bonuses, and a lawsuit from the London-based Sunday Times, which wants to get back $500,000 it paid him to settle a libel case.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants and volunteers in last year's Escape from Managaha pose for a group photo at Micro Beach.

SSC alumni to join Escape from Managaha

Forty-nine individuals led by former Saipan Swim Club swimmers have registered for the 10th Annual Escape from Managaha.

Rich Villagomez, Kristy Springer, Jessica Jordan, Megan Nevitt, and coach Jacoby Winkfield will cross the channel from the fabled island to Micro Beach for the first time, while another SSC coach Mike Villagomez will take on the challenge anew and participate in the 2.4-kilometer event set for May 4.

The two coaches along with Gary Guzman will escort pods of young swimmers across the channel depths. There will be 16 certified lifeguards from SSC and Saipan World Resort swimming the course along with DPS Boating and Safety support and a chase boat manned by American Red Cross executive director John Hirsch and lifeguard instructor trainer Eddie Johnson. Swimmers will be led by expert paddler Ann Jordan and there will be experienced kayakers surrounding and guiding swimmers, according to an SSC statement.

Early registration ended yesterday, but interested swimmers could still join on a space available basis in the morning of the event. Participants should be at the Smiling Cove boat ramp near DPS Boating and Safety by 5:30am, as the race will start at 6:30am. Wet suits, fins, snorkels, paddles and buoys are allowed, but swimmers must be able to make it through the channel by 7:30am.

With 49 swimmers registered in next week's event, the number had already surpassed last year's count, which was 42. Victoria Chentsova was the top finisher in last year's Escape, timing in at 38:09.10 and beating 2011 winner and fellow SSC member Kento Akimaru, who logged 38:09.31.

Meanwhile, SSC would like to thank DPS, the owners and operators of the Sun Rider and Sea Ray, Hirsch, and Johnson for their continued support to the "Escape." For more information, contact Suzy Kindel at suzykindel@yahoo.com. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

CNMI

From Page 28

host's 19. Chinese-Taipei has a 2-0-1 card, has logged seven goals, and have given up six. The CNMI is in fourth place with a 0-0-2 slate, while Guam is in last place with a 0-0-3 card and 27 goals given up.

Goalie Christopher Aninzon started out anew for the CNMI U14 National Team and was joined by seven other players who suited up against South Korea last Saturday. The list included Steven Martin, Euly James Ermitanio, Louie Calayad, Edwin Kim, Joshua Abragan, Mareko Tekopua, and Emmanuel Aniana, while Alan Hinson, Cody Leon, and Alex Park, who came in as substitutes in their debut last weekend, earned starting spots in the second game. Albert Bergancia, Cole Chambers, Logan Mister, Sunjoon Tenorio, Anthony Fruit, and Jherico Tiamzon also played against Chinese-Taipei as substitutes.

Midfielder Chin Wen Yen led Chinese-Taipei's starting unit and he also earned the first goal in the game, scoring in the fifth minute. After surrendering an early goal, the CNMI tightened up its defense and held Chinese-Taipei scoreless in the remaining 25 minutes in the first half.

The Commonwealth bets continued to hold their ground against Chinese-Taipei in the opening minutes of the second half before Chen Po Yu came off the bench and scored the second goal in the 44th minute.

"The boys did really well against Taipei. They were much more aggressive and took the ball to the other end of the field quite a few times. They followed the coaches' instructions about marking their player and played very good defense. Overall, even though the score was in favor of Chinese-Taipei, our boys felt great after the game and they knew they improved a lot after their first game," a squad official wrote in the CNMI U14 National Team website.

Meanwhile, the CNMI U14 National Team plays its third game today against Guam at 2pm (around 4pm Saipan time) and will close out the tournament tomorrow with a duel against China.

The tournament in China is one of the eight qualifiers being held to determine the teams that will advance to the AFC U-14 Championship 2014 Finals. The eight groups are divided into four zones only the Top 2 teams from each zone will march into the finals.

MATANSA

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tansa managed to beat Tan Holdings in a title-deciding game despite a shorthanded lineup. Matansa had only eight players available for the match and the list included goalie Carla Ballesteros, Maile Aldrich, Bernadette Horey, Jezreelyn Bulaklak, Andrea Ranjo, Angelica Sally, Pinyarat Shakweiller, and Lyka Sally.

Lyka Sally made the lone goal in the crucial match, as she scored in the ninth minute. Matansa FC made several attempts to score anew, but could not convert, while Tan Holdings also faltered on its bid to even up the match.

Ahead by only 1, Epperson urged his wards to score one more goal early in the second half so they could rest a bit and focus on defense in the final half of the second frame. Aldrich, Lyka Sally, and Horey had some breakaways in the second half, trying to start Matansa's offense, but simply count not complete the play, as they either overshot their marks or Tan Holdings defense stepped in.

Tan Holdings, which also played with a depleted crew, having only nine players, had three chances to score in the second half, but muffed all of them. The first one was early in the second half with Chloe Salvosa getting a penalty kick. However, the Tan Holdings striker kicked the ball early without waiting for the referee's whistle.

Melissa Borja also had an opportunity to hit the game-tying goal, but her shot, which seemed headed straight to the goal was intercepted by Ballesteros, who went for the dive and save.

Ballesteros had two more saves with about five minutes left in the match to foil Salvosa's repeated bids to even up the match. Salvosa got another penalty kick and went for the loop shot. Ballesteros jumped to catch the ball and caught it for a while before dropping it and then picking up the leather anew before it rolled in to the goal.

Fatigue then took its toll on the depleted crew of both teams, as they spent the remaining minutes of the match either watching the ball rolled out of the field or kicking it long to buy time to catch their breath.

With Matansa holding Tan Holdings scoreless, it ended the season with the least goals given up with four. The newly crowned champion also scored the most goals this season with 26. Tan Holdings gained 16 goals and gave up only seven, which are both second best in the division.

Paire 6, MP United 2

In the other game at Hopwood last Saturday, Paire broke into the win column this season after routing MP United.

Paire finished the competition with a 1-2-5 card and 10 goals scored. MP United wrapped up the season with a 2-1-5 slate and nine goals scored. MP United and Paire gave up 26 and 22 goals, respectively. Shirley's FC (3-1-4) completed the field, notched 10 goals and gave up 11.

Guinevere Borja made all 10 goals for Paire, tallying 6 in their victory over MP United and one each in their four early games. Negahr Rastguiy and Jayda Mendoza canned one goal apiece for MP United.

Pacquiao or Marquez vs Bradley

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Suddenly, Timothy Bradley is a hot commodity—the unbelievable object of a tug-of-war between arch rivals Manny Pacquiao and Juan Manuel Marquez for their next fights.

Marquez claims he'll be fighting Bradley on Sept. 14, but Cameron Dunkin, Bradley's manager, denied that a deal has been forged with the unbeaten American, who handed Pacquiao a dubious split decision loss last June.

Now, Team Pacquiao wants Bradley as the eight-division world champion's opponent on his return to the ring on Oct. 13, most probably at Venetian Macao.

Pacquiao's first priority, of course, would have been a fifth fight with Marquez, who knocked him out in the sixth round last Dec. 8 in Las Vegas.

But Marquez is shrewdly using that stunning ending as a bargaining chip.

After earning $6 million for the fourth bout with Pacquiao, Marquez told the Mexican media recently that Pacquiao-Marquez V would happen only if he's given a guaranteed purse of $20 million. That figure would virtually mean a 50-50 sharing between the fierce rivals, something unacceptable to Pacquiao's camp.

In response, Team Pacquiao, through business adviser Michael Koncz, offered Bradley a $6 million guarantee for a rematch.

Bradley, who was unimpressive in besting former Pacquiao sparring partner Russian Ruslan Provodnikov in his last outing, has yet to agree to the Pacquiao offer.

But the lure of more money, as Bradley stands to get much less against Marquez, may be too difficult to resist.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	13	7	.650	_
Baltimore	12	8	.600	1
New York	11	8	.579	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	9	11	.450	4
Toronto	8	13	.381	5 1/2

Central Division

Kansas City	10	7	.588	_
Minnesota	9	8	.529	1
Detroit	9	9	.500	1 1/2
Cleveland	8	10	.444	2 1/2
Chicago	7	12	.368	4

West Division

Texas	13	7	.650	_
Oakland	13	8	.619	1/2
Los Angeles	8	11	.421	4 1/2
Seattle	8	14	.364	6
Houston	6	14	.300	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Atlanta	13	5	.722	_
New York	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Washington	10	9	.526	3 1/2
Philadelphia	9	11	.450	5
Miami	4	15	.211	9 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	12	8	.600	_
St. Louis	11	8	.579	1/2
Milwaukee	10	8	.556	1
Pittsburgh	10	9	.526	1 1/2
Chicago	5	13	.278	6

West Division

Colorado	13	5	.722	_
San Francisco	13	7	.650	1
Arizona	10	9	.526	3 1/2
Los Angeles	8	10	.444	5
San Diego	5	14	.263	8 1/2

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FIELDERS

From Page 28

the Lions further down the bottom of the team standings.

Kaipat relieved Zachary Sasamoto, who pitched 4.1 innings. The starting pitcher allowed five hits, but his teammates saved him, catching six fly balls and beating Lions' runners at the bases to prevent the cellar-dwellers from making it to the scoreboard.

While the Lions were silent in the first four innings, the Fielders ended their drought at the top of the fourth, getting three runs. Jerry Kintol singled in Ian Rogolifoi, while the two other runs came off errors from Lions shortstop Keene Deleon Guerrero.

The Lions finally scored with leadoff batter Jesus Dela Cruz reaching home off Sasamoto's wild pitch early in the fifth inning. After that Kaipat took over the mound and the Lions' Justin Santos was left stranded at third after the former got his first strikeout in the game, booting out Cedric Ada for the third out. The first two outs were made off fly balls.

Still down by two with two innings left, the Lions again missed opportunities to score when runners were left stranded on first and second, as Kaipat struck out Justin Reyes for the third out. Kintol, the Fielders' second baseman, caught two fly balls for the first two outs.

The Fielders also had runners stuck on third and second, as Lions pitcher Brett Halstead struck out the next three batters to help his team stay in the game, going into the final inning. Santos then led off for the Lions at the bottom of the seventh and moved to first on a hit by pitch. Paul Celis was next at bat, but flied out to center field, and the Fielders went on to secure the win on a double play with Kainoa Wanket grounding out Halstead and then throwing to Kintol to tag Santos out.

Hunters 6, Ol'Aces 5

In the second game, the Hunters nipped Ol'Aces.

Jhase Palacios singled at the top of the seventh and brought E.J. Castro home for the go-ahead run and the Hunters saved the win after retiring Ol'Aces' first three batters at the bottom. K.J. Deleon Guerrero struck out leadoff batter Fermin Renguul, Castro caught a fly ball from Jesse Brel at left field, and Keola Camacho was beaten to first on a 5-3 put-out play.

It was a come-from-behind win for the Hunters, who were down, 3-5, after five complete innings. Deleon Guerrero moved the Hunters within one at the top of the sixth with his run off a fielder's choice, while Jeguinn Greenman tied the game after reaching home plate off a wild pitch.

Enforcers 8, Braves 0

The DARE Enforcers forced a tie for second place with the Braves after shutting out the latter in last Sunday's third and final game.

Darion Jones pitched in no relief for the Enforcers and allowed only three hits and three walks, while striking seven. He also went 3-for-5 at the plate, made two singles, and scored two runs.

The Enforcers got six runs off the Braves' miscues, while the two other runs came off Franklin Lizama's double and Jose Lizama's single.

Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem Part 2

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Trench Tech's Seong Ho Chung pins down Team El Peligro's Jacob Ilo during the first MMA bout in the Trench Tech's Rites of Passage 14: Mayhem last Friday night the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort.

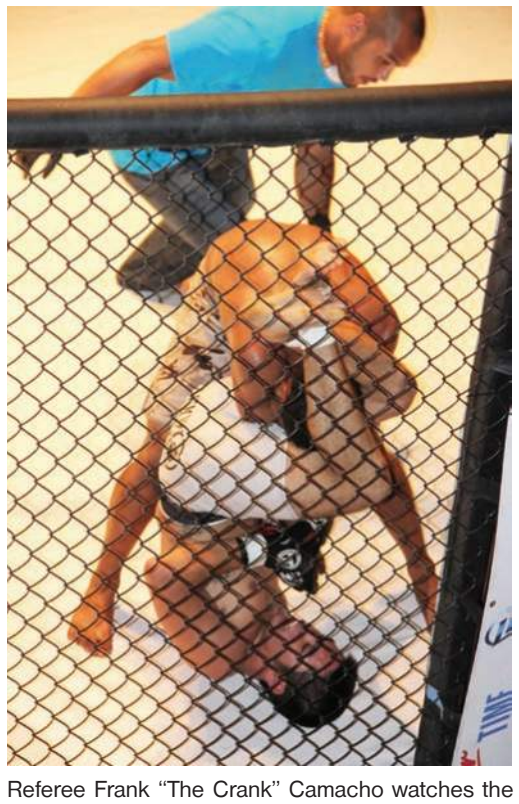
Referee Keith Nabors gives instructions to Team Legit's Leo Mendiola, far left, and Countershot Guam's Jared "Smiley Face" Mendiola.

Referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho gestures on Zeng Zung's Craig "The Earthquake" Borja before starting his fight against Lights Out's Kyle Toves.

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez attends to MMA first-timer Mat Fisher.

Zeng Zung's Craig "The Earthquake" Borja connects with a kick on Lights Out's Kyle Toves.

Vince "The Clinch" Masga celebrates after dethroning Countershot Guam's Josh "The Hedgedog" Alvarez.



Referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho watches the grapping action between Danny Cruz, bottom, and JoeRay Manglona.

Countershot Guam's Josh "The Hedgedog" Alvarez, left, hits Vince "The Clinch" Masga on the knee.

Spike 22's Mikey "The Flash" Taitano, right, corners Trench Tech's Martin "Ningbo Slice" Cepeda.

Curry leads Warriors past Nuggets, 131-117
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Sports

Ichiro hits 2-run single in 9th, Yanks win
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CNMI holds Chinese-Taipei to two goals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI U14 National Team showed significant improvement on defense in its second game in the AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers last Tuesday in Beijing, China.

After giving up 13 goals to South Korea, the Commonwealth youth strikers allowed only two goals to Chinese-Taipei. The CNMI-Chinese tiff was the closest game so far in the Group G qualifier, as earlier the same day, host China crushed Guam, 8-0. Guam also fell to Chinese-Taipei, which scored five goals against the former's one.

China and South Korea hold similar 2-0-0 win-draw-loss record, but the Koreans are on top of the team standings with their 21 goals against the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI U14 National Team's Emmanuel Aniana chases the ball down the sideline during the second half of their game against Chinese-Taipei in the AFC U14 Championship 2014 Qualifiers last Tuesday in Beijing, China.

Fielders stay on top of Senior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Fielders prevailed in a low-scoring game against the Kagman Lions, 3-1, last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield to keep the lead in the Senior Division of the 2013 Saipan Little League Baseball.

The Fielders now have a 7-3 record, maintaining their distance against the DARE Enforcers and NSA Braves, who hold similar 6-4 slates to share second place. The Hunters (5-5), Ol'Aces (5-5), and the Lions (1-9) complete the standings with the latter out of the running for the four spots in the playoffs with their dismal record.

Khobby Kaipat came in at the bottom of the fifth inning and allowed only one hit and walked one, while his teammates were quick and steady in catching fly balls to help the Fielders win the head-and-tail battle and push

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A JPO Enforcers batter waits for a pitch from the Braves during their game in the Senior League of the SLLB last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tan Holdings and Matansa players nudge each other as they battle for the ball during their girls U15 game in the NMIFA spring league last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa FC claims girls U15 crown

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Matansa Football Club bagged the championship in the girls U15 division of the 2013 NMIFA Spring Youth League after outclassing Tan Holdings FC, 1-0, last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Matansa finished the double-round robin competition with a 7-0-1 win-draw-loss record, while Tan Holdings wrapped up the season with a 5-0-3 slate. Had Tan Holdings won, it would have forced a tie for first place.

The Lee Epperson-coached Ma-

See MATANSA on Page 26